

the chronicle

Museum stars

Hollywood comes to the Black Country for drama

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Daring model

Leigh aiming for success in modelling competition

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It's champion

Pooling their talents to be best in country

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400 staff rush for exit door at council

MORE than 400 workers at Dudley Council have applied to take voluntary redundancy over the next year – double the number that will actually leave.

Council bosses have launched the second year of a redundancy programme which will see around 200 positions go by April 2013.

But the council revealed a total of 405 people have come forward and some applications may have to be refused. The redundancies are part of overall cost cutting plans totalling £30million over three years. Union chiefs in Dudley said uncertainty over pension reforms and low morale in the public sector was leading to employees wanting to leave.

Following an announcement last January, the local authority has already shed more than 400 jobs as part of a bid to save £22m. The move is part of wider plans to axe 800 jobs over the next three years.

Of the 405 requests for redundancy, 54 have been approved. Staff started leaving in December and will continue over the coming months. Some 67 applications have also been made for flexible retirement and reduction of working hours.

A year ago, more than 1,100 staff applied for redundancy and 535 were turned down.

Superbug cases drop

THE NUMBER of cases of superbug C-diff reported at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital have fallen, health bosses have said. There were 99 cases were logged between April and the beginning of December last year.

Nursing director Denise McMahon told hospital governors there had been just two cases in December and one so far in January – which was lower than in previous months. She said the drop was due to the "rigorous action" taken by staff.

MAN IN £40,000 XBOX GAMES CON

by David Lumb

A SUPERMARKET worker who ran a £40,000 computer game racket modifying Xbox consoles to play fake games has been ordered to do 180 hours' unpaid work. Jemmane McDonald, aged 25, also sold counterfeit games and used the money he made to buy a Honda car, a television and designer clothes.

But Judge John Wait was persuaded not to jail McDonald, of Smethwick, at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Tuesday after being told about the lack of complexity in his operation and how McDonald had cooperated with investigators.

"You are 25 and, I suspect, part of a generation that does not realise the seriousness of what you did," said the judge.

"You now know, from the extensive investigation that has had to take place as a result of your conduct, that it is regarded as a very serious."

The judge added: "You are not somebody who carried out the operation on a sophisticated scale, you have no previous convictions, and you come from a good home."

McDonald, who lives with his elderly mother in Cleint View, Smethwick, and works at Asda, in Cape Hill, advertised his services through www.monsterbackups.com from May 2008 to March 2010.

Posing

He was caught after a trading standards officer posing as a customer paid him £30 to modify an Xbox and £20 for five fake games.

A warrant was served and his modifying equipment and fake games were seized.

McDonald pleaded guilty to 28 counterfeiting offences.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting, said McDonald's net profit had been calculated as being £38,845 and he had assets to the value of £11,000.

"In the scheme of these sort of cases, it was a relatively unsophisticated operation. The games were made to order," Mr Jackson told the judge.

Mr Jas Mann, in mitigation, highlighted his client's previous clean record and his willingness to cooperate with investigators.

McDonald was made subject to a curfew that prevents him leaving his home on Friday and Saturday nights.

A Proceeds of Crime hearing to decide how much needs to be paid back is due to take place at a later date.

Tom gets teeth into challenge



Tom tackles a 1kg burger watched by pub-goers at the Lutley Oak, Halesowen

TOM EDMONDS has taken on a supersized fundraising task – chomping his way through a host of massive meals for a charity close to his heart.

Family and friends packed the Lutley Oak, pub, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, to see the 22-year-old start his Tom v Food challenge. He started it by eating a 1kg burger.

His also faces eating one of the hottest curries around and his own height in sunnies. To complete the feat, he will have to stomach a 20 inch pizza on Friday.

Tom, of Princess Crescent, Halesowen, dreamed up the idea after his sister Lucy, 20, was diagnosed with Hodgkins-Lymphoma. "We are really close," he said.

For more details visit www.justgiving.com/Thomas-Edmonds

The price of school meals to increase

THOUSANDS of families will pay more for school meals under price rises just announced.

Council chiefs in Dudley have said they will increase the cost of primary school dinners by five pence a day.

Costs will go up from £1.80 to £1.85 a day in Dudley.

Bosses in Walsall said the cost would go up from £1.85 to £1.90. Wolverhampton and Sandwell said they were still reviewing prices.

In Staffordshire the cost of secondary dinners is £2.20 and primaries £2.10. Prices were frozen last year but are to be reviewed in April.

Dudley Council said its new prices are being introduced to cover the rising cost of food and fuel bills.

The authority said it has seen a rise in the number of students having school meals.

The cost of food at secondary schools in the borough is also set to rise by three per cent. And the price of an adult meal for staff at primary schools will go up by 5p from £2.85 to £2.90 when the increases are introduced on April 16.

Cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Liz Walker, said in a report: "Meal uptake in 2010/11 saw a 1.4 per cent increase, and year to date these numbers have been maintained numbers, despite the current climate."

Sighting in murder case

Detectives hunting for the killer of Betty Yates say they are investigating "a sighting of potential significance".

The 77-year-old was found at her home on January 4. She had been stabbed in the neck and beaten with her own walking stick.

Police spoke to motorists travelling through the town on Monday. Detective Chief Inspector Neil Jamieson said, one driver had seen something which is of great interest to us.

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Project to improve heathland

A MAJOR project to restore important heathland by removing trees and plants has started at a nature reserve.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust will clear much of the woodland which has covered the Devil's Spittleful over the past 50 years.

It is the largest restoration project ever to have taken place at the reserve, between Kidderminster and Bewdley, and experts hope it will boost species of wildlife in the area.

Older trees, including pines and those used as habitats by birds and animals, will not be disturbed during the wildlife project.

Removal of the woodland will allow heather, grasses and other plants to grow at the site, according to experts. Alongside restoring heathland to the site the work will also provide better views over the reserve and a public right of way has also been cleared and re-instated.

The work is being supported by Natural England and once the site has been cleared the area will be fenced and grazed.

Gates will be installed at path crossings and volunteers will clear scrub to create a suitable nesting habitat for birds.

Dickens of a night due

THE GREAT-GREAT grandson of author Charles Dickens will perform some of the greatest scenes from his ancestor's best-loved works at an event in the Black Country.

Gerald Dickens will visit Netherton Arts Centre, in Northfield Road, for An Audience with Charles Dickens on February 27 at 7.30pm. The show marks the bicentennial of Dickens' birth and his descendant will be bringing the works to life.

Tickets, £10 for adults and £6 for children on 01384 813943.

Benefits help

HELP with claiming benefits is available for residents in the Wyre Forest district who are over 50.

People will need to produce their national insurance number and most recent fuel bill. The service is free. A benefit check can be booked with Age UK at the Tulip Tree Centre, Kidderminster on 01562 827788.

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The iPad app technology lets users scroll through the pages, zoom in and out or turn the device to view a double page spread.

A smart search facility means readers can use keywords to find the story they want either from the latest edition or the papers in their archive. Users can save pages to their device, share with friends on social media sites such

as Facebook and Twitter, or send articles via email. The app is also free to download for iPhone users, with the same charging structure as the iPad.

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"Whether readers want the major news from the region or the latest goings-on in their favourite local football club, the Express & Star app has it all."

It ay Hollywood but museum proves to be star attraction

SHE WAS once described as the most beautiful actress of all time. She starred alongside Steve McQueen in Bullitt, and Sean Connery in Murder On The Orient Express.

Now the Hollywood actress Jacqueline Bisset is standing in the bracing wind on a cobbled street in Dudley.

"It's been quite good fun," she says, as she surveys the old-fashioned village at the Black Country Living Museum. She plays the widow of a wealthy landowner in Stephen Poliakoff's new period drama Dancing On The Edge, and is filming her screen husband's funeral in the museum's Darby Hand Chapel.

"It's a very nice church," she says. "I like the staircase inside."

She might be 67, but Bisset still cuts a striking figure.

The series, which will be screened on BBC2 next year, tells the story of how a group of black jazz musicians came to find their place among high society in 1930s Britain.

In a report, Ofsted rated the learning service as "good" and said tutors delivered lively and interesting lessons which helped users to achieve their objectives.

Courses provided for family learners and users with learning difficulties were also commended in the report.

Inspectors said learners developed good understanding and skills to help them find work.

In 2010/11 there were more than 3,600 adults who enrolled on courses run by the library and learning service, of which 84 per cent achieved their accreditation.

Courses are held at libraries, children's centres and village halls throughout the county making it convenient for anyone to attend.

Poliakoff says locations are crucial to the success of period drama.

"I first came to see it in October last year, and I was thrilled by this lovely atmosphere," he says.



The camera crew and cast filming a BBC drama at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley



David, Helen, Dan and Dave get ready for their shot



Jacqueline Bisset



Anthony Head

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News in brief

Charity wants to recruit volunteers

A STOURBRIDGE charity is looking for volunteers who can spare a few hours a week to accompany vulnerable people on trips out.

Dudley Mind wants to help people who have mental health problems to overcome isolation and to help boost their confidence.

The scheme is being funded by Lloyds/TSB Foundation for England and Wales. For further information, people can contact Tina on 01384 442938.

College offering Spanish dining

STUDENTS will be serving up a Spanish feast as part of courses at Halesowen College.

The college's restaurant has launched the Spanish Fiesta evenings on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Starters will be assorted Tapas with Potato, Tomato, Mushroom, Chorizo and Tuna.

People can arrive for a pre-dinner aperitif at 6.45pm, with dinner served at 7pm, for £14.95.

For more details, call 0121 602 7851 or 0121 602 7777 ext 211.

Art to go on show at town centre

A CONTEMPORARY art fair is planned in Dudley, including a display of a replica steam train built in Stourbridge, fashion photography and a mini-mural workshop.

The event will be at Netherton Arts Centre on February 4 from 11am to 4pm. Everything from sculpture to photography will be shown. Email claire.starmer@dudley.gov.uk for more information.

Mayor is to forge links with firms

DUDLEY'S Mayor is to visit businesses in the borough over the coming months to learn about their work and boost links with the local authority.

The visits have been organised as part of Dudley Council's new Business First scheme which has been designed to offer support to firms in the area.

Speaker at pub

THE NEXT in a series of speakers' events will be taking place at a Dudley pub. Steven Woolfe will be at the Court House in New Street on February 8 at 7.30pm.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A WORRIED reader who was born in Scotland but lives in England inquires whether, if Scotland becomes independent, she will still be able to call herself British.

I have advised her that while I will certainly be British, she will probably have to get used to being a Pict.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

MORE TV subtitles that don't match the spoken word:

- "Swindon beat Wigan" becomes "Swindon beat Sweden."
- "French-made implants" becomes "French maid in plants."

□ □ □ □ □ □

A READER who clearly knows his baldrics from his wrist bells answers my query on why there are so many Morris dancing groups these days who black their faces. He says it reflects growing interest in the "dramatic and energetic" Border Morris style. I'm not sure I am convinced, having seen a report of one Morris side which has had to cancel three bookings because people took offence at their blacked-up faces. An outsider might get the impression that the blacking-up is more important than the dancing.

□ □ □ □ □ □

I'VE not yet seen The Iron Lady but I caught a radio debate on whether Meryl Streep's Thatcher has the voice of the original Tory leader or the Spitting Image puppet version.

In fact, on radio without the distraction of the image, Streep's Thatcher sometimes sounded more like Miss Piggy.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Crime-spree pair left war veteran in gutter

TWO TEENAGERS who went on a five-hour crime spree that included car jackings and robberies targeting elderly people have been locked up for a total of eight years.

■ by Andrew Turton

third teenager to steal a woman's handbag.

Admitted

All three, who live in Dudley, cannot be named for legal reasons. Two, aged 14 and 16, pleaded guilty to four robbery offences. The third admitted one robbery.

The 14-year-old had been released four days earlier from an 18 month detention.

The 16-year-old, who had previous convictions, also pleaded guilty to driving without a valid licence and insurance and failing to stop at an accident.

The 14-year-old was given four years behind bars and three years on licence.

The 16-year-old was given four years in custody, a six-month driving ban and had his licence endorsed.

The third, aged 15, was given an 18-month youth rehabilitation order and a three-month curfew.

Both cars were crashed.

During the crime spree last September, the pair also stole keys from a couple in their 60s after attacking them in their car.

A man walking near Netherton Reservoir was punched and had £70 and credit cards stolen.

The two were joined by a

Two charities given a cash boost

TWO CHARITIES have been given a huge boost after the Mayor of Dudley was presented with a cheque totalling £9,000. Beacon Radio raised the cash from its Walk of the Black Country last summer. Councillor Michael Evans will hand the money to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association and the Dudley Group of Hospitals Charity.

SVR work is right on track



Infrastructure manager Phil Sowden, assistant volunteer liaison officer Barry Moreton and volunteer foreman on the Severn Valley Railway Keith Brown

WORKERS are steaming ahead with a £250,000 improvement scheme on the Severn Valley Railway line between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth.

More than a third of a mile of track leading to and through the 480-yard Bewdley Tunnel is being renewed during the project. Services have been halted while the work, which got under way last week, is carried out. The railway's infrastructure manager Phil Sowden said work was on

track to be completed early next month.

Two teams with a total of 13 workers, including railway staff and volunteers, are carrying out the repairs.

Mr Sowden said: "We have taken the old track out of the tunnel and now we've started putting the new track in there. It's going well so far and we are still on schedule." The railway is working with Walsh Construction Ltd of Worcester on the project.

Meeting to focus on plans for church

PARTHIONERS will meet with church leaders this month to draw up ambitious plans to renovate a Black Country church.

Christ Church, Quarry Bank, is working on proposals for improvements at the building which could cost more than £50,000.

The group Friends of Quarry Bank group is working with church members to devise the plans to secure funding.

They will be meeting the District Church Council to discuss ideas and views raised during a recent consultation.

Group chairman Brian Gennet said: "We have been pleased with the response from the public so far."

"We are now advancing with the plans and we'll be meeting with the District Church Council to go through the details."

"All the elements of the project that we have already discussed will be on the table."

Carols for food

MEMBERS of Kingswinford Christian Centre have raised more £277 for the Black Country Foodbank. The congregation sang carols around the streets of King-swinford before Christmas. The charity distributes food to vulnerable residents and homeless.

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NEWS in brief

Heart charity in need of new stock

BRITISH Heart Foundation is appealing for stock ahead of the opening of its new store in Kidderminster.

The charity is on lookout for household goods including sofas, chairs, dining sets, beds, and wardrobes as well as electrical items for the shop in Worcester Street.

It will open on February 7 and replaces the British Heart Foundation furniture and electrical store, in Market Street. To arrange a collection visit bhf.org.uk/collection

Plans for homes given go-ahead

PLANS for almost 150 new homes in a Black Country town centre on the site of a former gas works have been given the go-ahead.

The proposals for land which runs alongside Dudley Southern Bypass were welcomed by planning chiefs but concerns were raised over their design and size.

Housing giant Taylor Wimpey will build a mixture of apartments and houses on the site off Constitution Hill, near the Flood Street car park.

Theatre to stage a psycho-drama

THE NONENTITIES theatre group will stage Richard Harris's In Two Minds at the Rose Theatre, Chester Road North, Kidderminster. Performances will be at the theatre's main house at 7.30pm from January 23-28.

Punching attack on phone boy

A TEENAGER was punched and had his phone stolen as he walked through Stourbridge.

The 14-year-old was followed by two men in a red car who then jumped out, attacked him and stole his iPod, Blackberry phone, wallet and cash cards.

It happened as he walked along Lowndes Road between 7.45pm and 7.50pm on December 28.

Detective Con Daniel Bailey, of Dudley CID, said: "The two offenders got out proceeded to repeatedly punch the victim to the head."

Both attackers were white with muscular builds and aged between 17 and 19.

One was approximately 5ft 10in. He had short black shaven hair and a local accent.

The driver was wearing a grey hoodie with the hood up.

Detective Bailey added: "We are hoping that someone must have witnessed this attack."

Anyone with information should call Brierley Hill police station or Dudley CID on 0345 113 5000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Talking murder

A TALK ON "Black Country murders" will be given by Ian Bott in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall on January 27 at 2.30pm. The event is part of Dudley Libraries' local history talks and anyone wishing to book can call 01384 812945.

Town is set to get charge up points for new electric cars

CHARGING points for electric cars will be installed in town centres across Dudley. It is part of a multi-million pound Government scheme to introduce more plug-in points.

■ by Andrew Turton

Plug sockets for electric cars will be placed in the middle of town centres in Dudley, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Halesowen by the end of the year under plans which have been set out by the council as part of a national transport scheme.

Other councils in the region are yet to finalise their plans but were considering installing electric plug-in points in their own towns.

Dudley Council's transport chief Councillor Patrick Harley said it was unclear how much the scheme would cost but the council was having to foot the bill for the work to be carried out.

Funding for the project in Dudley will instead come from central government and from the West Midlands Local Transport Plan.

Four dual socket car-charging points will be installed in the coming months in the town centres.

Further points are planned in Stourbridge at the £50 million redeveloped

"Struggling

"I think that this is an important move because we all know that households are

suffering with the costs of

petrol and you do have to

look around for the cheapest

places for fuel," added councillor Harley.

"This can be an incentive

to look at alternatives like

electric cars and although

they may be more expensive

initially there are savings to

be made."

"The Stourbridge points

will not be in until later in

the year due to the develop-

ment plans."

Contest call to young musicians

SCHOOLCHILDREN are invited to take part in the annual Youth Makes Music competition in Kidderminster. The event will be at the town hall, Vicar Street. Schools are asked to call 01562 732980 to get more information.



Customers at Retro-spective, New Street, Dudley, enjoy afternoon while raising money to help the Beacon Centre for the Blind at Sedgley

Teatime treats for Beacon

SHOPPERS sipped afternoon tea and enjoyed a slice of cake as a vintage clothes shop brought the past into the present to raise cash for charity.

Staff at Retro-spective, in New Street, wore aprons to stage the vintage tea party to raise funds for Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind.

Chintzy tablecloths adorned tables, tea was poured from traditional china pots and customers were served refreshments from cake stands dating back to the 1950s.

The event was organised following suggestions from customers to bring in much-needed funds Wolverhampton Road East-based charity.

Many people stopped by during their lunch breaks and it is hoped more than £100 will be raised.

The store sells clothes from the 1940s to 1980s.

Manager Claire Harris said: "We wanted to do something to support this charity and a vintage tea party was suggested by customers. It was a lot of fun."

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NO FAIR TRADES FEE HOMEPLUS

Block up fly-tipping lane demand angry residents

Dare leads to model hope



Leigh Hutchinson, aged 24, who is vying for success

WHEN self-confessed tomboy Leigh Hutchinson entered a national modelling contest as a dare, they never expected it to lead anywhere, least of all to the finals.

But now she has beaten 4,000 other hopefuls and has reached the final which will be held in March.

The 24-year-old works with clothes every day in her job at

Debenhams, Merry Hill, Leigh, of Plant Court, Brierley Hill, saw an advert for Top Model UK in a magazine and was dared by three pals to enter. They submitted their details and Leigh earned a place in the "editorial" category at London's Hilton Metropole Hotel with the chance of winning coaching and going on photo shoots.

A NARROW lane in Pensnett is being plagued by fly-tippers who are using it to dump rubbish and causing misery for neighbours.

People living near Gibbons Lane are calling for action to stop "vile" waste being left along the main pathway and undergrowth.

Residents said both household and industrial rubbish was being dumped in the lane, which is often used by pedestrians as a shortcut.

They say the lane, off High Street, which leads to Kingswinford, is obscured by high vegetation making it hard to monitor and a prime target for the fly-tippers.

The land backs on to The Plantation housing estate. More waste has been dumped at the site over the past week and residents said something had to be done.

Rubbish includes building waste such as bricks, tiles and rubble alongside other waste which has started to rot.

Problem

Bedside cabinets have been left in the past and there is also a problem with dog mess not being cleaned up and broken glass.

Residents are asking Dudley Council to place bollards at the lane's entrance to the lane to stop vehicles but is unadopted and not within the jurisdiction of any authority.

John Palmer, 68, who lives near the site, said: "The situation has got worse over the past few years. This used to be a nice shortcut but now it is in an appalling condition."

"The latest rubbish to be dumped there is absolutely vile. Part of the waste has started rotting and the smell is just horrible. We hope something can be done about it."

Dudley Councillor David Stanley said: "People who dump rubbish are not only breaking the law they are causing a blot on the landscape and leaving the taxpayer out of pocket."

Bereavement support

A free bereavement support session will be held at St James's Church Hall, Belfry Drive, Wollaston, Stourbridge, on January 27 from 2.30 to 4.30pm. To book places for the Omega sessions call 0845 259 3163 or email the team via carers@omega.uk.net

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Passenger numbers set to double with larger rail cars

DOUBLE the number of passengers will be able to travel on a Stourbridge rail line under £1.7 million plans to introduce larger rail cars.

New 120-seater rail cars, costing around £850,000 each, will be introduced on the Stourbridge town branch line later this year.

Bosses have said they were hopeful the rail cars would run on the line following the opening of the new £7m Stourbridge Bus Station nearby.

More than one million passengers have travelled on the service since the gas-powered rail cars replaced diesel trains on the line three

years ago. The service is operated by Parry People Movers Ltd, which is based in Cradley Heath.

Executive chairman John Parry MBE today said the present 60-seater rail cars on the Stourbridge Town branch line have reached capacity. "We have pushed our service to the limit of its frequency at the current time so the best way to expand is to double the size of our rail cars," he said.

Popular

"Local train services are so popular at the moment and are bursting at the seams."

"It has been a knock-on effect of high parking

costs in the centres of towns that more people are turning to local train services."

Mr Parry said he hoped up to three new railcars would be needed on the line.

The branch line runs from Stourbridge Town to Stourbridge Junction stations to link up with main line services to London, Birmingham and Worcester.

It is hoped the new railcars, which will be twice the size of the present Class 139 version, would be able to operate six return services an hour on the line. The firm has already announced £5m plans to open a second passenger line on an existing freight railway between Brierley Hill and Stourbridge.

A BLUEPRINT for parking across Dudley has been branded "disappointing" by traders.

They say it is geared towards new developments rather than existing homes and businesses.

Dudley Council has released a draft of its parking standards document and is urging residents and shop owners to comment on the plans. The proposals will determine the level of parking to be created at new housing and business developments in the future.

But traders claim they were concerned the document did not sufficiently address how parking could be improved for existing sites within town centres in the borough.

Trader Alan Caswell, who runs the Arcade Toyshop in Dudley town centre, said: "I have looked at the document, and it

does seem to be geared towards future developments rather than how things can be made better for existing places in the town."

Mr Caswell, who has long campaigned for more parking in Dudley, said he still hoped places such as Stone Street Square would be considered as a place for spaces in the future. The consultation on the new document will run until February 20. New cycling bays and disabled parking requirements will also be considered.

More information can be found at www.dudley.gov.uk/parking or 3 St James' Road, Dudley. Comments can be sent in writing by post to the planning policy section, Dudley Council, 3 St James' Road, Dudley, DY1 1HZ, by calling 01384 816364 or emailing Rachel.gandolfi@dudley.gov.uk

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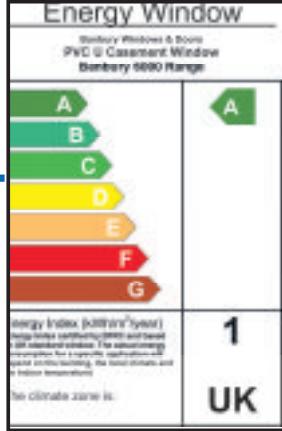
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Present traders 'not considered' in plans



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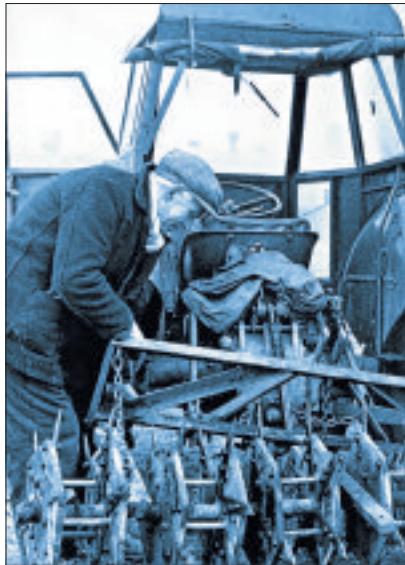
Barely visible this car in Wrottesley Park, Wolverhampton was buried by the snow



One of the remedies used to combat the cold



Black Country Living Museum's 'icebreaker' Ross in 1963 during the 'Big Freeze.'



Stourbridge FC groundsman Jack Corbett was hoping to beat the freeze during the record-breaking winter of February, 1963, by borrowing a spike harrow to get the pitch fit for the following day's game

Big freeze brings out the best from Black Country

Fiona Carding of the Black Country Living Museum, Dudley looks back to the Big Freeze of 1963

NEW YEAR 2012 saw unseasonably hot weather sizzling across the UK and some parts of the country reached temperatures higher than Spain.

It was, however, a very different story in January 1963 when the country endured "The Big Freeze" and one of the coldest winters on record.

Temperatures plummeted and rivers froze as blizzard conditions swept across the country. Three feet deep snow drifts caused chaos blocking roads and railways across the Black Country. Snow drifts of up to 22ft high brought much of the South West and Wales to a standstill and in Kent a mile stretch of sea turned to ice.

Margaret Millington from Coseley said: "I can remember it being so cold that the canal in

MEMORY LANE
by Fiona Carding

Upper Church Lane, Tipton froze over. My teenage friends skated on it like an ice rink and enjoyed sliding up and down.

"You took your life in your hands just walking to work as the paths were so dangerous. The gritters were simple open lorries with a couple of men shoveling salt and grit onto the road.

Slipping

"Houses still had open fires in those days and ash would also be spread over the ground to stop people slipping."

Walsall and Wolverhampton depended on supplies of coal from mines on Cannock Chase in Staffordshire and disruption caused an upsurge in sales of electric fires.

Warming food like rabbit stew, broths and soups kept the cold at

bay and people wrapped up in thick coat and boots. Les Millington said: "My brother-in-law worked for the council and would be up at 3am to do the gritting. I can remember him leaving the house dressed in long Johns with two pairs of trousers over the top to keep out the cold."

Milk was frozen in the bottles on the doorsteps and would often freeze in the house as there was no central heating.

People would snuggle up by the fire or go to bed early to keep warm and save coal. The more well off you were the more you could afford to stockpile coal which would last you through the bitter winter.

If you depended upon a weekly wage however, your coal supplies would probably run out within a week.

One thing however, remains the same today as it always was.

The vagaries of the weather brings out the best of British as people, both past and present, pull together in the face of the Great British winter.



It was not all misery and chaos due to the freezing temperatures and snowdrifts some took advantage of the cold spell in 1963 to enjoy themselves such as this family who were out on a sledge ride in February of that year

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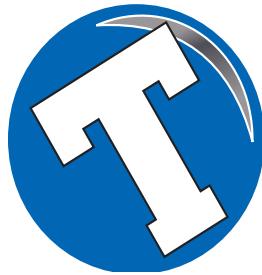


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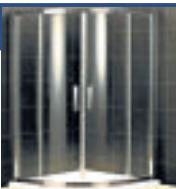
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thechronicle

Glimpse into the future that brings light rail link

THESE pictures are the first glimpse of how a multi-million pound light rail network between Brierley Hill and Stourbridge could look under new plans.

They were released as bosses revealed work could start within the next two years, creating dozens of jobs. Three metro-style stations would be built as part of the £5 million project to run passenger railcars on a four-mile section of an existing freight line. Passengers would be able to catch the railcars from The Waterfront, in Brierley Hill.

Railcars would then stop at a newly opened Brierley Hill town railway station, off Station Road, which has been shut for more than 60 years.

A stop would be built near Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, before railcars travel on to Stourbridge Junction to connect up with main line services to London, Worcester and Birmingham.

Principle

Cradley Heath based-firm Parry People Movers has attracted £1m in principle from the Government's Regional Growth Fund to kick-start the project.

The firm already runs the branch line between Stourbridge Town and Junction stations.

The cash allows the firm to begin research and development into the plans to evaluate the existing infrastructure like the tracks and help develop new vehicles for the line.

Further funding will involve a leasing company putting up around £2.5m for the cost of the buying three new trains.

Executive chairman John Parry said it was great news for the company and the Black Country.

New jobs including drivers, cleaners and maintenance workers will be needed if the proposals become a reality.

"This is the biggest news for the company for a long time and we are delighted to be working on this project," he said.



How the new multi-million pound light rail network could look



The project could begin within the next two years creating new jobs

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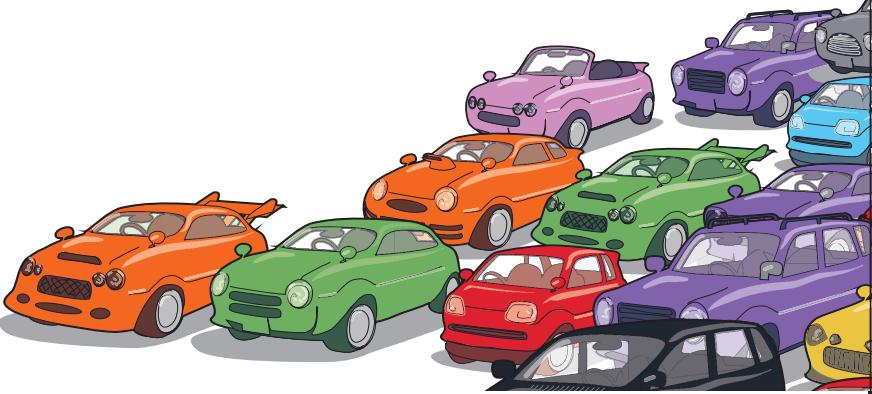
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LETTERS**Do Tories have Christian values?**

PRIME MINISTER David now believes an acclamation of Christian values may be the answer to preventing a repeat of the social unrest experienced across Britain last summer.

I agree Christian values such as caring for each other and the pursuit of personal or spiritual fulfilment rather than material things are exactly what society needs, but we should not forget those ideals are encapsulated in many other religions too.

However, since Mr Cameron has specifically expressed Christian ideals, I just wonder what the credentials of the Conservative party might be in this

Grateful for support at a difficult time of life

I HAVE often seen readers' letters praising hospital wards following an in-patient visit, but none for domiciliary care.

I would like to take this opportunity to give praise and thanks to the people who enabled me to care for my husband at home during his terminal illness.

I include the Kingswinford District nurses, the Marie Curie cancer care sitters, Dudley Crossroads, the excellent palliative care team, the MacMillan nurses, and all at Kingswinford Medical Practice.

Without their practical help, kindness and support, I really don't know how I would have coped during the last few months of his life, at a time when I was already exhausted from caring for him for several years.

SANDRA HÖLDEN,
Wall Heath

LETTERS to the Editor**POST**

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Enjoyment dwarfed by a little concern

I WRITE to you in connection with the 2pm performance December 18 of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. I would like to congratulate everyone who played a part in this outstanding production. My self and my three children thoroughly enjoyed it.

However, I see the dwarves were children with masks and pre-recorded voices. I have to be honest at the time I was a little disappointed, however I fully understood in today's economic climate why such a decision may have been made.

Upon leaving the theatre I was approached by a TV crew who asked for a quick review. I was stunned to be asked if I would have been offended if the dwarves had been genuine. It appears there may be a little more than finances at the root of such a decision. I am disgusted at the thought of a theatre being put in a position where political correctness dictates. Can we not live any aspect of our lives without politics and prejudices. Was this significant change in cast simply made because little people are at the brunt of political discussion? Surely not.

MRS BILLINGHAM, Dudley

thechronicle**These rich should give more than donations**

matter. I would not doubt most of his party regularly attend church, and I suspect therefore many of them will be aware of the drastic decline in church attendances in recent years, especially since the Conservative government relaxed Sunday trading laws in 1994.

Regarding the pursuit of material things, I have so far seen little evidence of this government "Overturning the tables" in the temples of the city.

Indeed, they are forever telling us to spend more. Nor was there much evidence of the "The Good Samaritan", or turning the other cheek when insults were being traded between British

French and German politicians recently. I suspect that like the use of Britain's veto, this is another ploy specifically intended to rally the jingoistic and their faithful.

If this Government really wants to know what has brought about a "broken society" I cannot help but recall Mrs Thatcher's words: "There is no such thing as society, only individuals".

It was her government that oversaw the globalisation of banking and the subsequent demutualisation of building societies.

MICHAEL CLIFF,
Wall Heath

It's holly insulting replacing real thing

WHERE has all the pride and respect gone from this once great country of ours.

At this time of year many, many people have been visiting our cemeteries to honour and respect their deceased, loved ones.

But I wonder how many had a good look at the various types of wreath that they had laid. Well on a recent annual visit to Bushbury Crematorium I discovered to my total shock and amazement florists, garden centres, nurseries etc are now making and selling goods using plastic, yes, plastic holly. These well outnumbered the few that had real holly. So to the makers and sellers of these counterfeit goods I would say have a good look at yourselves and show some respect to our deceased.

TERRY MILLS
Woodsetton

I HAVE no qualms at all with those wealthy celebrities and millionaires of pensionable age that are giving their £200 and £300 winter fuel allowance to a fund to help those less fortunate than themselves.

It is their money, they can do what they like with it.

But why do they make a song and dance about it? If they want to give it to a charity of their choice, give it to a charity, full stop.

In fact this country has become a charity shop, and a profitable haven for the rest of the world, and this government is giving another £20m in foreign aid to countries that are by far, better off than we are.

Yet the pensioners of this country have their winter fuel allowance reduced by £50, and £100, and we all know how the cost of fuel has risen, yet we are the ones who have the reductions, especially at a time when we need it the most.

What I would like to see is those same celebrities, and millionaires highlighting and campaigning with pensioners for an above the poverty line pension of £178 a week.

They can do this by supporting us through the National Pensioners Convention, who vigorously campaign on all issues related to pensioners.

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Second meeting to look into extra gipsy sites

A SECOND consultation into plans for new gipsy and travellers' pitches in Wyre Forest is set to start next month, if councillors agree to consider four extra sites.

The district council says it needs to identify 43 more pitches for gipsies and travellers by 2022, as well as a site for travelling show people. Seven potential sites in the district were considered in a public consultation process in November. But four of the sites were thrown out after councillors ruled that they were not deemed to be suitable.

Now council officers have put forward four additional sites, which are all in Stourport, as possible locations for new pitches.

They will be discussed by councillors at a meeting later this month. If councillors support the proposals, a consultation will run in February and March.

Permission

At the meeting members will discuss whether to turn temporary permission for eight pitches at The Gatehouse site in Sandy Lane into a permanent camp. The panel will also discuss having six pitches on another Sandy Lane plot and one in Broach Road.

Land off Wilden Lane's industrial estate is also proposed to house the "cold season" site for the Jennings funfair family, due to move from its current base in Long Bank, Bewdley. Following the earlier public consultation, sites at Saiven and Nunn's Corner in Sandy Lane and Gables Yard, Broach Road, have been approved by councillors. The newly-proposed sites will be discussed by Wyre Forest's scrutiny committee on January 30 at 6pm in Stourport Civic Hall.

Artists' annual exhibition

The Brierley Hill Society of Artists have launched their annual exhibition at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone. The work includes watercolours inspired by local scenes as well as portraits and still-life drawings. The exhibition will run until April 1.

Big row breaks out



Nutri-Centre manager Zafran Hussain, and customer service manager Raj Sadha go head-to-head with Birmingham Rowing Club's Emma Tod

EXPERT rowers, shoppers and staff looking to beat the festive excesses took part in a rowing competition at a Black Country supermarket.

Four machines were installed at the Tesco Express store, at Burnt Tree Island on the Dudley-Sandwell border, for challengers to pit their skills against each other.

And expert rowing teams from the

region also turned out to take part - with a team from Birmingham University eventually taking first place.

They completed a 2,000-metre circuit in five minutes and 26 seconds to take pole position in the challenge. The four-strong team each completed the equivalent of 500-metres on the machines to compile the winning time.

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Cash deadline in battle to save town fire station

CAMPAIGNERS have just six weeks to raise £10,000 to fund a legal bid to overturn plans which would close Halesowen fire station and axe a 24-hour crew.

They are now appealing to local businesses and residents to help their fight, which could end up costing the campaigners tens of thousands.

A judicial review is being launched over the decision to shut the fire station and cut the 24-hour crew which also serves Cradley Heath. But protesters need to pay solicitors a £10,000 deposit and submit papers to the High Court by February 28 – within three

months of the original decision being made. It is estimated that up to £40,000 needs to be raised to fund the case.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris is working with the Halesowen and Cradley Heath Fire Station Action Group, including business and community leaders.

The group is also looking to organise fundraising events.

Protesters are concerned that the West Midlands Fire Authority plans will leave the area unprotected, and firefighters said the move was a "dark day for the public of Halesowen".

Work started on creating an 'urban village'

WORK has begun on the creation of more than 200 homes on a new estate – kickstarting a masterplan to transform an ailing area of Kidderminster. A total of 223 homes will be built on the Churchfields Business Park as part of plans to create an "urban village".

The proposals, by Bellway Homes, would see the housing development created in Clemsmore Street. The plans are for two four-storey blocks of flats, and nine single flats above garages, with the remaining 194 units split between detached, semis and terraced homes.

A total of 49 properties are earmarked as "low cost" and will be sold to the Wyre Forest Community Housing Group.

The Churchfields Business Park site was once home to Georgian Carpets and still is the base for a number of factories and warehouses.

Wyre Forest District Council wants to regenerate the area and create a link between that area and the heart of the town centre.

Proposals for the development to connect the Horsefair shopping area and town centre were first announced last year.

Asda also wants to build a new supermarket and link road nearby but is waiting for planning permission.

The first phase of the housing scheme will start imminently and Bellway expect to open a sales cabin during the spring.

Confidence

The development is named Keeper's Lock, as it looks out onto the canal. Bellway's regional managing director David Campbell-Kelly said: "Our first site in Kidderminster, Honleybrook has been extremely popular; we have every confidence in Keeper's Lock."

"The site has been derelict for some time and the development will enable us to return an otherwise redundant area back to community use. Many residents have voiced their approval."

Infrastructure works are expected to cost £4.2m and will include a traffic lights at the Blackwell Street roundabout and a link road between Clemsmore Street and St Mary's Ringway.

A new bridge linking Clemsmore Street with Crossley Retail Park, two pedestrian bridges to cross the canal and general highways works are also planned.

Fear over implants



Jenna Johnson now worried about her implants

A WOMAN from the Black Country says she feels "extremely frightened and angry" after finding herself in the middle of a health scare over silicone breast implants.

Jenna Johnson, aged 27, believed she was having saline implants fitted when she had an operation privately two years ago after losing 8st.

But she has been horrified to learn they were filled with non-medical grade silicone intended for use in mattresses. They were manufactured by now-closed French company Poly Implant Prostheses (PIP), which has hit the headlines after health concerns were raised. The French government told women with these implants to have them removed.

Miss Johnson, of The Infield, Cradley Heath, had her operation at The Hospital Group's Dolan Park cosmetic hospital in Bromsgrove. "I believed I had purchased saline implants not silicone ones so I'm extremely frightened and angry about all of this. I don't know whether I've had a rupture so I'm worried about what could happen."

The Hospital Group website, dated January 9, said: "The latest advice from the department of health continues to be there is not sufficient evidence to recommend routine removal of PIP implants, women who are concerned should speak with their GP."

Art group's work features in display

LANDSCAPES paintings, portraits and still life drawings form part of an art exhibition at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone.

Members of the Brierley Hill and district society of artists are hosting their annual showcase until March 1. The majority of works will be on sale throughout the exhibi-

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DONNA naughty 40's, pretty, loves nights in, gym, theatre, seeks someone to make me laugh, give lots of cuddles and go on fun dates. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 383063

SARA educated independent attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls don't disappoint me by not replying. I promise I won't disappoint! Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 383061

DEENA extremely naughty mistress, strict or sensual, sophisticated, feminine, dresses, loves role play, seeks solvent older bushes gent 50s plus for fun relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 383059

JEAN 71, fun loving Shrewsbury lady, seeks caring gent of similar age. GSOH, N/S for companionship/outings. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373657

TRISHA 50, attractive, black, outgoing, thoughtful, caring, understanding, likes holidays, seeks similar loving gent. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 383073

SARAH 52, fun loving, affectionate, outgoing, likes pubs, meets out, walks, holidays, seeks kind, romantic, loving man. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382359

CLARE 25 old single mum looking for fun times. I have red/blonde hair, blue eyes and am up for lots of fun. Any age/status. Must be adventurous and confident. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382207

LAURA slim green eyed 25 year old female looking for good times only. Any age/status. Must be adventurous and confident. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382099

JEAN 51 slim, busty blonde, new to dating and fed up of going through the pub scene. WLTM down to earth male for adult company. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382207

KATIE pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship? ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382225

STACEY young sensual 20yr old looking for fun times. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382091

MICHELLE blonde blue eyed happy female, loves heels and being feminine. OHAC, self sufficient, looking for male for long term romance and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382089

JESSIE single mum 24 looking for her Mr Right for especially respectful relationship, hopefully blossoming into love. Single dads welcome. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382087

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possibly relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327579

JENNIE blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves, countryside, animals, cooking, WLTM older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378481

KIRSTY 36 attractive, blonde, seeking open-minded decent male friend, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373013

ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-69yrs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368889

I'M attractive, very tactile with an hourglass figure, looking for fun and good times. Can you help? Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368889

SARAH 32, attractive black single mom of one, very tactile and WLTM male 45-65yrs for meetups. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376565

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379535

JOY very hot fun loving 35yr old American female over on regular business, looking for English gent for mutually convenient friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378507

VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up. 30-60, ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364311

DIVORCED very lonely single mom, yearn looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370223

SUZANNA lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for highly decent reliable man for lots of TLC and good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375711

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTM older chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377511

CLARE 25 old single mum looking for fun times. I have red/blonde hair, blue eyes and am up for lots of fun. Any age/status. Must be adventurous and confident. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382207

CLARE 45 yr old slim blonde, loves working out, cooking, meals out, animals, looking for romance and good times with appreciative male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376171

OLIVIA green eyed slim blonde seeking understanding male for mutual companionship and nice times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375917

CLARE 45, 5ft 5ins, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart male 55-65 for companionship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375773

CLARE 45 yr old slim blonde, loves working out, cooking, meals out, animals, looking for romance and good times with appreciative male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376171

CLARE good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378209

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 380851

SLIM female, 5ft 9ins, blonde, likes weekends away, meals out, seeks handsome chap to court me, then maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 369295

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTM male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376165

JANICE attractive female, 50, size 12-14, seeks younger gent, 40-50 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376115

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes night in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362033

RACHEL attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTM tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375827

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old naughty girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363227

CARLY beautiful slim blonde looking for mature male 50-70yrs for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376367

29YR old large black female looking for much older male, up to 70yrs, for naughty friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370017

SLIM attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368119

JANE 40's blonde blue eyed petite build, with ties, WLTM understanding tall, caring man for daytime meets. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375141

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, tactile no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks, Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378483

YOUNG looking attractive slim blonde, very lonely, WLTM nice guy for whatever life抛s at us. No expectations. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370111

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377432

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363428

TRACY attractive young blonde with great figure, likes nights in/out, looking for stimulating male for interesting meets. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359351

CARING and honest lady 61, 5ft 2ins, WLTM very caring and honest gentleman. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379795

CAROL petite brunette, 38yrs, romantic, affectionate, outgoing, seeks similar male for nice times together. Any age/looks, Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 380389

RACHAEL caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364651

JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 380591

LOUISA looking for lovely, young male, 20-30's, easygoing for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 380469

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360317

RACHEL 38, slim, attractive, works full time, seeks sensible, funny gent for friendship, companionship, hopefully relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375929

DIONNE 5ft 3ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, 42, single mum, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376801

CLARE good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378209

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 380851

SLIM female, 5ft 9ins, blonde, likes weekends away, meals out, seeks handsome chap to court me, then maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 369295

KATHY caring lady 60, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart male 55-65 for companionship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376165

CLARE attractive female, 50, size 12-14, seeks younger gent, 40-50 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376115

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes night in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362033

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367519

JANICE attractive female, 50, size 12-14, seeks younger gent, 40-50 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376115

ROXIE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTM male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 369277

RACHEL 45, 5ft 5ins, medium build, single mum, genuine, slim, petite, affectionate, sensitive, seeks special male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366755

RAQUEL dark hair, tattooed, single mum, genuine, slim, petite, affectionate, sensitive, seeks special male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362033

CLIVE 48, 5ft 10ins, warm, intelligent, hardworking, unconventional, unpredictable, seeks sensible, intelligent, kind. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372484

IAN 5ft 10ins, 55, caring, honest, looking for sincere female with good personality, 45-55, enjoy being out, socialising, meals. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372707

MARK 44, 5ft 10ins, 55, caring, honest, looking for love with a lady to share love and my heart with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382939

KEVIN 44, divorced, 5ft 8ins, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, easygoing, down to earth, likes meals out, cinema, N/S female. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370649

GENUINE professional male, 50, many interests, seeks female for nights in/out, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 389114

JEFF slim, fit, active, 60, open-minded, seeks attractive lady, 40-60 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379997

54YR old divorced male, OHAC, seeks female under 50 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373927

ATTRACTION tall honest guy, 48, polite, seeks GSOH, seeks female for fun relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 371623

JOHN 48, 5ft 10ins, warm, intelligent, hardworking, unconventional, unpredictable, seeks sensible, intelligent, kind. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 388412

TALL handsome male, 41, GSOH, likes romantic things/nights in/out, WLTM attractive, down to earth, young, lady, 35-55, size unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 386611

MARIE 44, caring, honest, faithful, looking for love with a lady to share love and my heart with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382939

HELP help, help! Inexperienced CD, 52, seeks understanding female for fun and excitement. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 226021

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 311892

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CARING and honest lady 61, 5ft 2ins, WLTM very caring and honest gentleman. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379795

LOVING caring 63yr old widow, seeks female for company, nights in/out, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382417

62YR old male, divorced, medium build, dark hair, GSOH, enjoys music, sport, gardening, socialising, seeks local lady for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382401

KEVIN solvent, 6ft 2ins, athletic, looking for soul mate. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382385

JOE fun loving, sexy girl in similar area. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 382345

PAUL OHAC, N/S, divorced, average height, guy, sociable, tactile, likes most things, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 388623

62YR old male, divorced, caring gent, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 387121

LOVING caring 63yr old widow, seeks female for caring relationship and to share the good things in life. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 388621

MALE likes walks, talks, cooking, theatre, seeks female for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 381771

MIKE friendly guy 48, tall, fit, GSOH, seeks lady for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376921

MARK single dad, seeking female for nights in/out, possibly relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 381779

MALE 58, 5ft 8ins, medium build, short hair, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 to share happiness and life with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370649

KEVIN 44, divorced, 5ft 8ins, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, easygoing, down to earth, likes meals out, cinema, N/S female. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377207

JEFF slim, fit, active, 60, open-minded, seeks attractive lady, 40-60 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379997

54YR old divorced male, OHAC, seeks female under 50 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 380281

YOUNG looking 51yr old male, slim, seeks attractive, interesting woman, 16-45 for fun and games. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 380213

DAVE 44 slim, good looking, N/S, 5ft 9ins, no ties, WLTM slim, attractive, fun loving girl for relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 381547

ALAN young 62, N/S, slim, solvent, successful, OHAC, WLTM sensitive, caring female, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 380651

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, seeks female for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372407

ATHLETIC good looking 31yr old male, seeks slim, attractive female for fun, Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370821

ALAN young 60, N/S, slim, OHAC, solvent, successful, WLTM sensitive, caring female, 45-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 388912

MALE 57, no ties, good looking, N/S, seeks female for friendship and to end loneliness and become soul mates forever. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372737

TALL romantic, outgoing lonely 51yr old male, fit, healthy guy, N/S, likes cooking, music, seeks attractive,

TRAVEL

thechronicle



So much to see... including the imposing Houses of Parliament (above) and (right) for a close-up of where our MPs make their decisions book a trip to the House of Commons

A cruise along the Thames is a real treat where you can see the sights along the way including the London Eye



London – capital place to visit but ditch the car

LONDON is a capital place to visit but there's one thing you don't want to take with you – the car.

Driving along those busy streets is no fun so let the coach do the work while you sit back and enjoy the sights – and there's plenty of them.

With all the special coach deals around a theatre break including the return journey, time for shopping and a show can work out just a few pounds dearer than the normal cost of the theatre ticket and what a way to beat those post Christmas blues.

Like so many people I am not used to being without the four wheels but I must say going by coach made a wonderful change and probably saved a fortune on petrol costs.

We stayed at the handily-placed Hilton Metropole in Edgware Road within walking distance of Marylebone rail station and tube and not too far from the shopping mecca, Oxford Street. As well as a ground floor lounge bar the four-star hotel has a beautiful bar on the 25th floor with fantastic views over the city.

Cruise

You could visit London numerous times and never run out of places to see. Hop back on to the coach and head off to the Houses of Parliament. A visit to the Commons is fascinating and you can see where your MP spends his or her time. It does look surprisingly smaller than when you see it on the TV.

Most trips will allow you some spare time for sightseeing or shopping or stopping for a bite to eat or a coffee.

Instead of just going out for a meal why not combine it with a cruise down the Thames. City Cruises' showboats offer the best of all worlds, three-course meal and entertainment that wouldn't be out of place in a top show. The benefit of being

Relax on a coach and see the sights without having to battle the traffic

on the coach means that you can have a guided tour, pointing out all the best sights and the courier can give you the history and stories about them, the sort of tit bits that you may not be able to read on any website or in a travel guide.

It also means that you can actually have a good look at the sights instead of glimpsing them while you are driving along trying to dodge the many cyclists in mas blues.

Jewels

Next day off to the Tower of London and a glimpse of those famous crown jewels and a chance to discover the history of a royal palace, an armoury and a powerful fortress.

And for a jewel in the London pub scene check out the historic Anchor pub by the river in Southwark. A timbered pub, it may look small from the outside but it is a maze rooms.

On to Greenwich, the place to be this year with the Olympics as the equestrian events will be held there. There is a special clock at the Royal Observatory counting down the days to the start of the Olympics. Walk across to the National Maritime museum and the World Heritage site.

And while you are in London this is a MUST. Make sure you book into one of the many fantastic shows that are on offer at the array of theatres. London remains one of the most popular destinations for coach tours and if you are wanting to book a show this is probably one of the most cost-effective ways to combine a tour with shopping and a show.

As the coach firm can normally book up

show tickets at discount prices and sort out hotel deals, it can work out far more affordable to do it this way then book separately and have to sort out and pay for your travel and overnight stay if you plan to make a weekend of it.

And such trips are not confined to London, check out deals with the coach companies and you will find an endless list of trips on offer, both in this country and overseas.

Coach tourism is one of the UK's biggest travel sectors. More than seven million people are expected to join the trend to holidaying in the UK by taking a coach tour. And moving out of the big cities going by coach is the best way to see dramatic scenery and rolling countryside whether it be the Peak District, Yorkshire Dales or the Scottish Highlands.

The new coaches now cost upwards of £250,000 and feature reclining seats and air conditioning. The on-board facilities often include DVD screens and even kitchens where the operators can rustle you up a drink or snack.

Coach passengers can start their tour near to home with a local pick-up point. So put those car keys away and relax on a coach.

SUE ATTWATER



Make time for a trip to the Tower of London where you can marvel at the Crown Jewels and (below) the Royal Observatory at Greenwich which is now on countdown for the Olympics



F A C T F I L E
For general information on coach tours visit www.findacoachholiday.com. Tickets for shows can be booked through agencies such as Group Line via www.LOVetheatre.com. For general tourist information go to www.visitlondon.com

Local operators who offer day trips and short breaks to London include:
Parrys International: 01922 414576
Harry Shaw: 02476 455544
Leons Holidays: 01785 241319
Group Travel: 01384 377060
Elcock Reisen: 01952 285006

Harry Shaw

Bournemouth, Swanage & Lulworth Cove - Durley Dean Hotel

Bournemouth is the perfect holiday centre with its famous theatres, 2 splendid piers and miles of golden sands. The Durley Dean is a historic Victorian town house situated close to the beaches. Features include a swimming pool, sauna and mini gym.

Included excursions:

- Coastal tour calling at Weymouth & Lulworth Cove
- Dorset town of Swanage and Poole harbour

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Included excursions:

- Historic city of Bruges
- Veurne and its popular market followed by a visit to historic Ypres. See the famous Menin Gate or Flanders Field Museum, (admission extra).

5 Days • 4 Nights:

20 February from £189.95

Eastbourne - Glastonbury Hotel

Eastbourne offers spectacular coastal scenery and countryside. It is famous for its decked promenade and gardens, beaches and excellent facilities. The Glastonbury Hotel is located on Royal Parade.

Included excursions:

- Brighton with its antique shops and pier
- Hastings and then on to the old Cinque Port of Rye

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13 Feb - from £129.95, 26 March from £159.95, 04 June & 10 September from £199.95

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6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Snooker: The Masters. The opening semi-final. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.35** Winter Wipeout.

6.35 The Magicians. Great British Bake Off presenter Mel Giedroyc, former world heavyweight boxing champion David Haye and Got to Dance judge Kimberly Wyatt join the professionals. **7.50 The National Lottery:** Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. **8.40 Casualty.** Linda's sister turns up in the ED on the run from social services and desperate for a place to stay, while Lloyd's actions put a patient in danger. **9.30 Live at the Apollo.** Jack Whitehall hosts the stand-up show. Last in the series. **10.00 BBC News; Weather.** **10.20 Match of the Day.** Including highlights of Queens Park Rangers v Wigan Athletic; National Lottery Update. **11.45 The Football League Show.** Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two. **1.00 Weatherview.** **1.05 BBC News.**

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00 Film:** Whale Rider. (2002) Drama, starring Keisha Castle-Hughes. **1.35 Film:** Fire Down Below. (1957) Romantic drama, with Rita Hayworth, Robert Mitchum, Jack Lemmon and Bonar Colleano. **3.30 Escape to the Country.** (R) **4.30 Live Snooker:** The Masters. The opening semi-final. **5.30 Pappano's Essential Tosca.** (R)

6.30 Flog It! Charlotte Ross and Elizabeth Tabot appraise collectibles at Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire, while Paul Martin explores the building's history. (R) **7.30 Dad's Army.** A major decides Corporal Jones is too old to be in the Home Guard unless he can complete an assault course. (R) **8.00 Live Snooker: The Masters.** The second semi-final. Further coverage from Alexandra Palace, where the line-up for the final of the non-ranking tournament is decided. **10.30 FILM: Doubt.** (2008) Premiere. A disciplinarian nun at a Catholic school suspects a charismatic priest of behaving inappropriately with a student. Drama, with Meryl Streep.

10.15 ITV News; Weather. **10.30 Celebrity Juice.** With Ollie Murs and Caroline Flack. **11.15 FILM: Inside I'm Dancing.** (2004) Drama, with James McAvoy.

1.05 The Zone; **1TV News Headlines.** **3.05 In Plain Sight.** **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.** **5.30 ITV Morning News.**

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25 CITV.** **9.25 ITV News.** **9.35 Film:** Richie Rich. (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin. **11.25 This Morning:** Saturday. **12.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **2.30 ITV News; Weather.** **2.45 Animals** the Funniest Things. (R) **3.45 Film:** Jurassic Park III. (2001) Action adventure sequel, starring Sam Neill. **5.30 Regional Programmes.** **5.45 ITV News; Weather.**

6.00 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates camcorder calamities. **6.30 Harry Hill's TV Burp.** **7.00 Take Me Out.** A personal trainer, a football freestyler, a student and a mobile-phone salesman take part. **8.15 The Talent Show.** The changing role of the talent-show host. **9.15 The Jonathan Ross Show.** With Daniel Radcliffe, Noel Fielding, David Attenborough and Seal.

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6.05 Sali Mali. (R) **6.10 The Hoobs.** (R) **6.35 The Hoobs.** (R) **7.00 Freesports on 4.** (R) **7.25 GT Academy.** **7.55 The Morning Line.** **8.55 T4:** Everyone's Talking About – Top 10. **9.25 T4:** Live and Lost: Chipmunk. (R) **9.55 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.25 T4:** Desperate Scousewives. **11.25 T4:** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55 T4:** New Girl. (R) **12.25 T4:** Playing It Straight. **1.25 T4:** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55 Channel 4 Racing.** **2.40 Channel 4 Presents – Will Bayley.** 2012. (R) **4.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.30 Channel 4 News.**

6.00 4thought.tv. A woman explains her approval of China's population-control policy. **6.05 FILM: Fame.** (2009) Musical remake, with Kay Panabaker, Naturi Naughton and Kherington Payne

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00 Animal Rescue Squad.** (R) **10.20 It's All About Amy.** (R) **11.20 Celebrity Big Brother: The Eviction.** (R) **12.20 Celebrity Big Brother: The Eviction.** (R) **12.50 Film:** Along Came Polly. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston. **2.30 Film:** 55 Days at Peking. (1963) Fact-based period drama, starring Charlton Heston. **5.30 Film:** Joe Kidd. (1972) Western, starring Clint Eastwood.

7.10 5 News Weekend. **7.15 NCIS.** Gibbs revisits his home town to investigate an assault that left one Marine dead and another badly injured – and enlists the help of his estranged father to identify the assailant. (R) **8.15 Celebrity Big Brother.** A round-up of Friday's action from the star-studded bungalow, including another celebrity packing their suitcase and returning to their normal lives away from 24-hour scrutiny. **9.15 FILM: Made of Honor.** (2008) Romantic comedy, starring Patrick Dempsey, Michelle Monaghan, Kevin McKidd and Kadeem Hardison. **11.10 Celebrity Wedding Planner.** With former Apprentice contestants Rael Bayou and Stuart Baggis. (R)

12.10 SuperCasino. **4.00 Great Artists.** (R) **4.25 Divine Designs.** (R) **4.50 County Secrets.** (R) **5.00 Hanah's Helpline.** (R) **5.10 The Milkshake! Show.** (R) **5.35 Thomas & Friends.** (R) **5.45 Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

ITV2 **3.35 American Idol.** **6.25 Film:** The Borrowers. (1997) Children's fantasy, starring John Goodman, Jim Broadbent, Celia Imrie, Flora Newbigin and Tom Felton. Including FYI Daily. **8.15 Take Me Out – The Goss.** (2009) **9.00 Film:** Notting Hill. (1999) **11.25 Film:** Analyze This. (1999) Comedy, with Robert De Niro, Billy Crystal, Lisa Kudrow, Chazz Palminteri and Joe Pesci. Including FYI Daily.

ITV3 **2.45 Bertie and Elizabeth.** **4.45 A Touch of Frost.** **7.00 Rosemary & Thyme.** **8.00 Doc Martin.** **9.00 Foyle's War.** **11.00 Wallis and Edward.**

ITV4 **3.15 Film:** Licence to Kill. (1989) **5.55 Film:** Where Eagles Dare. (1969) **9.00 Ali:** Still the Greatest. **10.00 Film:** When We Were Kings. (1996) Oscar-winning documentary, by Leon Gast. **11.50 Film:** American History X. (1998) Drama, starring Edward Norton.

BBC THREE **7.00 Top Gear.** Michael Sheen is the Star in a Reasonably Priced Car. **8.00 Sherlock.** **9.30 Film:** Enemy of the State. (1998) **11.35 Family Guy.**

BBC FOUR **7.00 Amazon:** Unnatural Histories. **8.00 Shock and Awe:** The Story of Electricity. **9.00 Borgen.** **11.00 Top of the Pops:** 1977. **11.35 Word Up!** – Black American Pop at the BBC.

E4 **1.25 Hollyoaks.** **4.00 Desperate Scousewives.** **5.05 Scrubs.** **6.05 The Big Bang Theory.** **7.05 Happy Endings.** **7.35 How I Met Your Mother.** **8.00 Rules of Engagement.** **8.35 The Big Bang Theory.** **9.00 Film:** Beverly Hills Cop. (1984) **11.10 The Big Bang Theory.**

FILM4 **2.50 Paths of Glory.** (1957) **4.35 Hope Floats.** (1998) **6.50 Rat Race.** (2001) **9.00 Role Models.** (2008) Comedy, starring Paul Rudd and Sean William Scott. **11.00 44 Inch Chest.** (2009)

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BBC1

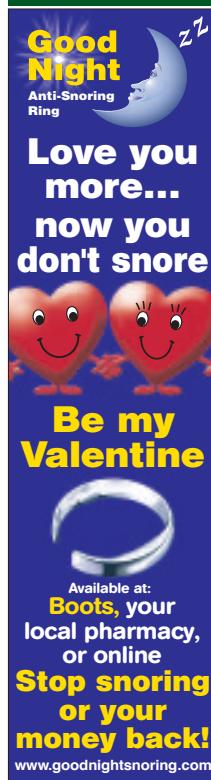
BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5

Digital



6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Country Tracks; Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.00 Sunday Politics. 1.00 EastEnders. 2.55 The Royal Bodyguard. (R) 3.25 Escape to the Country. 4.25 Songs of Praise. 5.00 Regional Programmes. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. (R)

6.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker takes a walk through the Wye Valley. Ellie Harrison learns of a local restoration project, and John Craven investigates the controversy surrounding veal.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Miranda Hart joins the cast as clumsy new midwife Chummy. Jessica Raine and Amy McAllister co-star in the period medical drama.

9.00 Birdsong. First in a two-part drama adapted from Sebastian Faulks' novel. A man begins an affair with a married woman in pre-First World War France.

10.25 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.50 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Arsenal v Manchester United.

11.55 Room 101 – Extra Storage. Frank Skinner hosts a revamped version of the show.

12.35 Weatherview. 12.40 Sign Zone: Film 2012 with Claudia Winkleman. (R) 1.20 Hairy City. (R) 2.20 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) 3.05 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. (R) 4.05 BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 10.00 Something for the Weekend. 11.30 Film: The High and the Mighty. (1954) Disaster thriller, starring John Wayne. 1.50 Live Snooker: The Masters. 4.45 Ski Sunday. 5.30 Porridge. (R)

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Ade in Britain. (R) 10.30 Dinner Date. (R) 11.30 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 12.30 ITV News: Weather. 12.40 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 1.45 Film: Columbo: Requiem for a Falling Star. (1973) 3.45 Vera. (R) 5.40 Regional Programmes. 5.55 ITV News; Weather.

6.10 Dancing on Ice. The 13 remaining contestants perform on the same show for the first time, skating to songs from films in a bid to wow the judges and viewers and survive another week on the ice. The results can be seen at 9.30pm.

8.30 Wild at Heart. Danny finds a potential lifeline for the family as he pitches for a grant that will enable him to buy Leopold's Den, but his old boss Ed Lynch is also competing for the money.

9.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off.

10.00 That Sunday Night Show. With Ardal O'Hanlon and Ross Noble.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 FILM: Alexander. (2004) Historical epic, starring Colin Farrell.

11.00 Frank Skinner's Opinionated. With Alun Cochrane and Sarah Millican. (R)

11.30 Fast and Loose. Featuring David Armand, Greg Davies and Justin Edwards. Last in the series. (R)

12.00 Film: Jackknife. (1989) Drama, starring Robert De Niro and Ed Harris. 1.40 BBC News.

4.10 Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Ade in Britain. (R) 10.30 Dinner Date. (R) 11.30 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 12.30 ITV News: Weather. 12.40 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 1.45 Film: Columbo: Requiem for a Falling Star. (1973) 3.45 Vera. (R) 5.40 Regional Programmes. 5.55 ITV News; Weather.

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4.10 Close.

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freesports on 4. (R) 7.30 Channel 4 Presents – Oscar Pistorius "Blade Runner". The Paralympic gold medalist explains his motivations. (R) 8.00 FILM: The Milkshake! Show. (R) 8.50 T4: One Tree Hill. (R) 8.50 T4: Hollywoods. (R) 11.20 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.55 T4: Showwrecked: The Island. (R) 12.40 FILM: The Simpsons. (R) 1.35 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 2.05 Film: Ladyhawke. (1985) Fantasy, starring Rutger Hauer and Michelle Pfeiffer. 4.25 Deal or No Deal. 5.25 Channel 4 News. 5.55

6.00 Time Team. New series. Gateholm Island, Pembrokeshire.

7.00 Hugh's Three Hungry Boys. The friends explore what the sea has to offer.

8.00 The Hotel. Manager Mark throws a pool party for guests.

9.00 FILM: 127 Hours. (2010) Premiere. Danny Boyle's fact-based drama, with James Franco and Kate Mara.

10.50 Chris Moyles' Quiz Night. (R)

11.40 Ben Elton: Laughing at the 80s. (R)

1.35 Coming Up: Geronimo. (R) 2.05 Halo Panda. (R) 2.35 A Film from My Parish. (R) 2.45 St Elsewhere. (R) 3.35 90210. (R) 4.15 Lost Buildings of Britain. (R) 5.10 Countdown. (R) 5.55 Salt Mail. (R)

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Fireman Sam. (R) 6.40 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) 6.50 Castle Farm. (R) 6.55 Iggy Oggy. (R) 7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.15 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 7.35 Make Believe for Noddy. (R) 7.45 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.05 Olivia. (R) 8.20 The Adventures of Bottie Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.30 Angelina Ballerina. 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 The Mr Men Show. (R) 9.30 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.40 Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) 10.00 Zoo Days. (R) 10.05 Meerkat Manor. (R) 10.35 Grey's Anatomy. (R) 11.30 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 12.30 Benidorm. (R) 1.30 Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training. (1986) Comedy sequel, with Steve Guttenberg. 3.05 Film: Little Man. (2006) Comedy, starring Marlon Wayans. 4.55 Film: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls. (1995) Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey.

8.00 FILM: Spider-Man. (2002) Comic-book adventure, starring Tobey Maguire.

9.05 World's Greatest Heroes. (R)

9.55 5 News.

10.00 Celebrity Big Brother.

11.00 FILM: Single White Female. (1992) Thriller, starring Bridget Fonda and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

1.10 SuperCasino. 4.00 County Secrets. (R) 4.10 Great Scientists. (R) 4.35 Divine Design. (R) 5.00 Hanza's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2
2.45 Film: Back to the Future (1985) 5.00 Film: Batteries Not Included (1987) 7.05 Film: Ice Age: The Meltdown (2006) 9.00 Winners & Losers 10.00 Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005)

ITV3
3.55 Film: From Time to Time (2009) 5.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot 9.00 Lewis. The detective suspects rock band veterans are mixed up in murder. Last in the series. 11.00 Cracker

BBC THREE
2.35 Film: The Big Country (1958) 5.55 The Professionals 7.00 UEFA Champions League Greatest Goals 7.10 Film: Escape to Victory (1981) 9.30 Africa Cup of Nations 11.00 Film: Lethal Weapon (1987)

BBC FOUR
7.00 Pugin: God's Own Architect 8.00 The Story of Musicals 9.00 Les Mis at 25: Matt Lucas Dreams the Dream 10.00 Film: The Boy Friend (1971)

E4
3.40 Being Erica 4.40 Samantha Who? 5.10 Film: Taxi (2004) 7.10 90210 8.05 David Blaine: Magic Man 9.00 Desperate Housewives 11.00 Rude Tube

FILM4
2.40 Carry On Nurse (1959) 4.20 Independence Day (1996) 7.00 Life or Something Like It. (2002) Comedy, starring Angelina Jolie, Edward Burns, Tony Shalhoub and Stockard Channing. 9.00 Working Girl. (1988) Comedy, starring Melanie Griffith, Sigourney Weaver and Harrison Ford. 11.10 White Men Can't Jump (1992)

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Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 1.45 Saints and Scroungers. 11.45 Britain's Empty Homes; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 CBBC News; Weather. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Inside Out; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Train fares Taken? Is it a Rail? 8.30 Panorama. 9.00 Royal Wedding. 9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 A Question of Sport. 11.05 Late Kick Off. 11.35 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 12.20 Weatherview. 1.45 Sign Zone: Who Do You Think You Are? (R) 1.25 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 1.55 You've Been Scammed. (R) 2.40 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. (R) 3.40 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.25 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 1.00 Live Bowls. 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.45 Flug It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Coronation Street. 8.30 A Question of Taste. 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 An Island Parish. 9.00 The Real Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines: A WonderLand Film. 10.00 Mock the Week — Again. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 American Football. 12.20 Bowls. 1.20 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone. 3.40 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 The Hungry Sailors. 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 7.00 The Chase. 8.00 Coronation Street. 9.00 Above Suspicion: Silent Scream. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 11.10 Law & Order: UK. (R) 12.05 River Monsters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.30 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 According to Jim. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Undercover Boss. (R) 9.55 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) 11.00 Secret Location. 12.00 Countdown 4 News Summary. 12.05 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 1.05 Channel 4 Presents: Ellie Simmonds 2012. (R) 1.10 River Cottage Bites. (R) 1.30 Film: Passport to Pimlico. (1949) 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Celebrity Coach Trip. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 8.00 The Fat Fighters. 9.00 15 Kids and Counting. The problems caused by sibling rivalry in large families. 10.00 Shameless. 11.05 Desperate Housewives. 12.00 Random Acts. 12.05 Poker. 1.10 Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. 1.35 KOTV Boxing. 2.00 25 Volleyball. 3.00 GT Academy. (R) 3.25 That Paralympic Show. (R) 3.55 Paralympic Wheelchair Rugby. GB Cup. 2011. (R) 4.50 European Wheelchair Fencing Championships 2011. (R) 5.15 Scrapheap Challenge. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE WITH Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 3.00 EastEnders. 3.30 Blind (2007) 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 World's Toughest Trucker; (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 Police Interceptors; 5 News at 9. 9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. 10.00 Celebrity Wedding Planner. 11.00 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side. 12.00 Kate Thornton — Anorexic: My Secret Past. (R) 1.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 4.10 Grey's Anatomy. 5.00 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 1.00 Saints and Scroungers. 11.45 Britain's Empty Homes; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Rip It Up Britain. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Hollyoaks. 9.00 MasterChef. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 11.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Death Row Dogs. 11.30 Film: Open Range (2003) Western. starring Robert Duvall, Annette Bening and Michael Gambon. 1.40 Weatherview. 1.45 Sign Zone: The Manor Reborn. (R) 2.45 Nature's Miracle Babies. (R) 3.45 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 4.45 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.25 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 1.00 Live Bowls. The World Indoor Championships. 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.45 Flug It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Coronation Street. 8.30 MasterChef. 9.00 The Crusades. 10.00 Have I Got News for You. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2011 — Meet Your Brain. 12.20 Bowls. 1.20 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 The Hungry Sailors. 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 7.00 The Chase. 8.00 Coronation Street. 9.00 Above Suspicion: Silent Scream. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 11.10 Law & Order: UK. (R) 12.05 River Monsters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.30 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

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Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 1.00 Saints and Scroungers. 11.45 Britain's Empty Homes; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Rip It Up Britain. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Hollyoaks. 9.00 MasterChef. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 11.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Death Row Dogs. 11.30 Film: Open Range (2003) Western. starring Robert Duvall, Annette Bening and Michael Gambon. 1.40 Weatherview. 1.45 Sign Zone: Train Races: Taken for a Ride? — Panorama. (R) 2.45 Countryfile. (R) 3.45 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 4.45 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.25 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 1.00 Live Bowls. Coverage of the women's singles final. 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.45 Flug It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Coronation Street. 8.30 MasterChef. 9.00 The Crusades. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2011 — Meet Your Brain. 12.20 Bowls. 1.20 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 The Hungry Sailors. 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 7.00 The Chase. 8.00 Coronation Street. 9.00 Above Suspicion: Silent Scream. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 11.10 Law & Order: UK. (R) 12.05 River Monsters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.30 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

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ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 The Hungry Sailors. 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 7.00 The Chase. 8.00 Coronation Street. 9.00 Above Suspicion: Silent Scream. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 11.10 Law & Order: UK. (R) 12.05 River Monsters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.30 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 According to Jim. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Above Suspicion: Silent Scream. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 11.10 Law & Order: UK. (R) 12.05 River Monsters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.30 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 1.15 Coronation Street. 1.45 Neighbours. (R) 2.15 CSI: NY. (R) 3.15 Film: See Jane Die. (2003) Romantic comedy, starring Charisma Carpenter and Anna Paquin. 4.00 News at 4. 5.50 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Cowboy Builders; (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 Benidorm; 5 News at 9. 9.00 Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. 10.00 Jodie Marsh — Bullied: My Secret Past. 11.00 Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. 11.30 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side. 12.30 Celebrity Poker: The Big Game. 1.30 SuperCasino. 3.55 HouseBusters. (R) 4.20 Nick's Quest. (R) 5.10 House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 1.00 Saints and Scroungers. 11.45 Britain's Empty Homes; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Rip It Up Britain. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Hollyoaks. 9.00 MasterChef. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 11.35 Crimewatch Update. 10.45 Question Time. 11.45 This Week. 12.30 WeatherView. 12.35 Sign Zone: Train Races: Taken for a Ride? — Panorama. (R) 1.05 Countryfile. (R) 2.45 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) 2.50 Britain's Killers Road. (R) 3.35 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.25 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 1.00 Live Bowls. Coverage of the women's singles final. 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.45 Flug It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Coronation Street. 8.30 MasterChef. 9.00 The Crusades. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2011 — Meet Your Brain. 12.20 Bowls. 1.20 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 The Hungry Sailors. 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 7.00 The Chase. 8.00 Coronation Street. 9.00 Coronation Street. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 11.10 Law & Order: UK. (R) 12.05 Film: The Review Show. (R) 1.00 WeatherView. 1.15 Film: The Notorious Bettie Page. (2005) Biographical drama, starring Gretchen Mol. (R) 2.20 ITV News. 3.35 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 The Hungry Sailors. 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 7.00 The Chase. 8.00 Coronation Street. 9.00 Coronation Street. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 11.10 Law & Order: UK. (R) 12.05 Film: Jaws 2. (1978) Thriller sequel starring Roy Scheider. (R) 12.45 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.45 Film: Ray. (2004) Biopic, starring Jamie Foxx. 5.20 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 According to Jim. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Above Suspicion: Silent Scream. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 11.10 Law & Order: UK. (R) 12.05 River Monsters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.30 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

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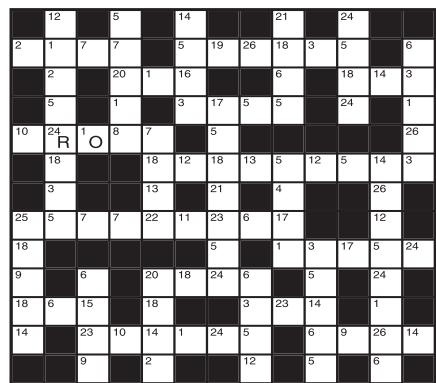
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Brain Gym

No.152

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

I	H	K	N	A	Q	Z	V	R	G	B	S	O
U	F	T	J	D	L	E	C	P	M	W	X	O

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Strict hand drafts a new order (4,3,4)
9. It's the least one can do (7)
10. Creed of a company in the red? Just the opposite (5)
11. Dependable form of alloy (5)
12. I turned badly, not yet having taken the test (7)
13. I am in prusit in a carriage (6)
15. Fell, but kept quiet (3,3)
18. Overhead lines (7)
20. Money, enough for a puree, perhaps (5)
22. Part of the roof showing a blend of styles in part (5)
23. Smouldering anger (7)
24. Immediately erect a road (11)

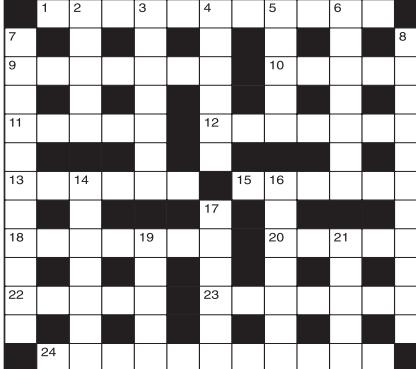
Quick Clues:

Across

1. Calamity (11)
9. Delicate (7)
10. Freight (5)
11. Happening (5)
12. Bounty (7)
13. Maintain (6)
15. Talented (6)
18. Vacation (7)
20. Sweeten (5)
22. Confine (5)
23. Passage (7)
24. News (11)

Down

2. A negative in any trouble (5)
3. People with such depressions may still be happy (7)
4. Best sort of capital investment! (6)
5. In fact a point of view (5)
6. No ordinary member of the force (7)
7. What a nursery may ask for looking after one! (5,6)
8. Highwayman intent on cleaning up? (11)
14. His life may be in the balance (7)
16. Possibly a tropic fruit (7)
17. Demanding, like royalty? (6)
19. Stadium near a ruin (5)
21. Animal comes from the pet-shop and accepts food (5)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Metalled; 5 Stem; 9 News; 10 Scorpion; 11 Utter; 12 Candida; 13 Crossword clue; 18 Underlay; 19 Stur; 20 Berated; 21 Bored; 22 Dodo; 23 Pacific. Down: 2 Elector; 3 Answers; 4 Encyclopedia; 6 Trivial; 7 Mandate; 8 Ironed; 13 Clubbed; 14 Ordered; 15 Sprite; 16 Cast off; 17 Usurers. **QUICK** - Across: 1 Ecstatic; 5 Laud; 9 Prop; 10 Acquires; 11 Tacit; 12 Notable; 13 Unrepresented; 18 Contract; 19 Myth; 20 Emotion; 21 Freak; 22 Norm; 23 Regulate. Down: 2 Certain; 3 Top-side; 4 Incandescence; 6 Acrobat; 7 Descend; 8 Subtle; 13 Unclean; 14 Rancour; 15 Permit; 16 Numeral; 17 Extract.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

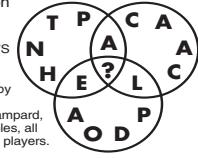
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	1	3	6	8	2	7	4	5
6	8	7	5	3	4	9	2	1
2	5	4	9	1	7	6	3	8
7	3	6	2	8	5	4	1	9
8	6	1	2	3	7	9	5	4
4	9	1	8	5	6	3	2	7
3	2	9	1	4	5	6	7	6
5	7	8	2	6	3	4	1	9
1	4	6	7	9	8	5	3	2

	2	4		1	
5	1		8	4	9
			1		3
7	5		8	3	
		1	9	4	5
			8	2	
	2			5	1
					1
6	9	3			7
	7		4	6	9

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

The letter represented by the question mark is L. Lampard, Hilario, Meireles, all Chelsea F.C. players.

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WANTED

A three bedroom semi detached in the Howley Grange area.

WANTED

A three bed semi detached or detached property near to Lutley School.

WANTED

A two/three bedroom house in the Timbertree area.

WANTED

A three bedroom semi detached property in the Hurst Green area.

WANTED

A two bedroom property with a garage in the Blackheath area.

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OLDBURY

HALESOWEN

OLDBURY

HALESOWEN

QUINTON

Raddens Road

High Haden Crescent

Forest Road

HALESOWEN

OLDBURY

HALESOWEN

QUINTON

- * Extended semi detached
- * Four bedrooms
- * Through living room
- * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Refitted shower room
- * Good size of garden

- * Extended detached house
- * three good sized bedrooms
- * two garages
- * in need of general modernisation and improvement
- * full of potential
- * good sized rear garden

- * Spacious traditional semi
- * Four bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Pleasant gardens
- * Viewing recommended

- * Spacious link detached
- * Three bedrooms
- * Close to Hagley Road West
- * Through living room
- * Kitchen * Cloakroom
- * Utility * Pleasant gardens

- * Traditional style semi detached
- * Three bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * Extensive rear garden
- * Requires general modernisation
- * Close to Warley Woods

- * Traditional extended semi
- * Four bedrooms
- * Bathroom & dressing room
- * Kitchen * Breakfast room
- * Through living room
- * Great potential

- * Much improved semi
- * Three beds
- * Refitted kitchen & utility
- * Through lounge
- * Side garage
- * Viewing recommended

Offers in the region of £269,950

Offers in the region of £249,950

Offers in the region of £199,950

Offers in the region of £179,950

Offers in the region of £175,000

Offers in the region of £169,950

£169,950

OLDBURY

DUDLEY Dudley Wood

OLDBURY

HALESOWEN

HALESOWEN

STOURBRIDGE

BIRMINGHAM Quinton

Walters Road

Pavilion Gardens

St James Road

HALESOWEN

HALESOWEN

STOURBRIDGE

BIRMINGHAM Quinton

- * Traditional style semi
- * Three bedrooms
- * Open plan kitchen/dining room
- * Conservatory
- * Garage to rear
- * Must be viewed

- * Modern semi detached house
- * cul-de-sac location
- * side garage
- * two bedrooms
- * kitchen/breakfast room
- * good sized landscaped garden

- * Semi detached bungalow
- * Two bedrooms
- * Lounge * Kitchen
- * Bathroom * Off road parking
- * General improvement required
- * Great potential

- * Ground floor flat
- * Two bedrooms
- * Living room
- * Kitchen
- * Refitted shower room
- * Communal gardens

- * First floor maisonette
- * Three bedrooms
- * Living room * Kitchen
- * Garden area
- * Garage
- * Short lease hence suitable for cash buyers only

- * Modern town house
- * 50% shared ownership
- * three bedrooms
- * downstairs wc
- * off road parking to rear
- * good sized rear garden

£165,000

Offers in the region of £114,950

Offers in the region of £90,000

Offers in the region of £89,950

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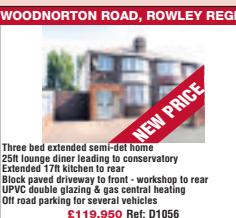
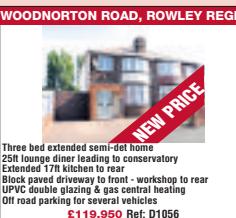
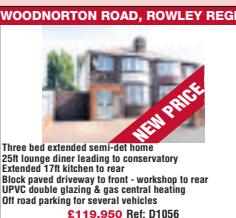
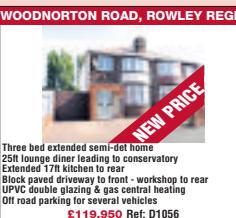
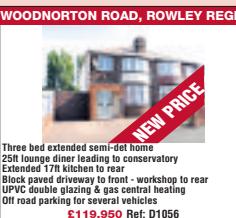
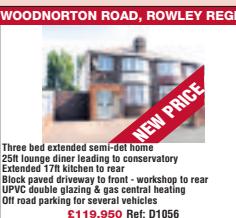
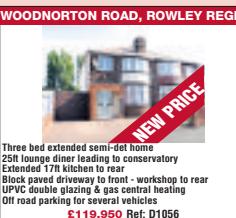
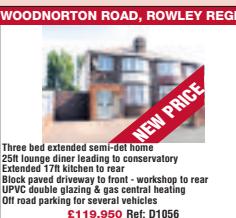
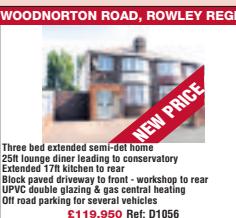
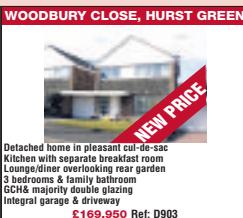
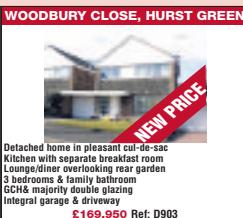
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55 RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.2cc 16v 3-dr. Met Silver, Alloys, PAS, EW, EM	£2999
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52 VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB 12v 1.0cc 3-dr. Met Silver, EW, PAS, CD Player	£2299
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05 RENAULT LAGUNA DYNAMIQUE DCI 1.9cc 120bhp Met Blue, Alloys, PAS, EW, EM	£2699
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04 JAGUAR X TYPE V6 2.5cc Auto AWD. Met Green, Alloys, PAS, EW, EM, AC	£3299
02 BMW 318 TISE COMPACT 2.0cc Met Silver, Alloys, PAS, EW, EM, AC	£2999
05 VAUXHALL VECTRA LS 16v 1.8cc Met Gold, PAS, EW, EM, CD	£2499
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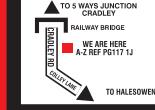
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Advertisement

Halesowen Audi weekend adds to A1 appeal

Halesowen Audi is giving motorists the perfect opportunity to discover why the A1 is such a "top marque" at a special event this weekend, which will be devoted to the award-winning premium hatchback.

From Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd January, the Manor Lane Centre will be hosting an exciting A1 weekend which will present visitors with some exclusive opportunities to acquire the acclaimed model and be amongst the first to order the A1 Sportback, the five-door version that will be launched later this spring.

Recently crowned "Supermini of the Year" for the second year in a row by What Car? magazine, the event will provide guests with the perfect chance to discover more about the A1's winning attributes, which include its enhanced affordability.

To celebrate the success of the model, which is available from just £13,420 on-the-road, Halesowen Audi will be offering a deposit contribution of £750 to anyone purchasing a three-door A1 during the weekend. And customers won't have too long to begin their A1 ownership experience as the Centre has stock available for immediate delivery so they could be behind-the-wheel within hours!

With its official unveiling still a couple of months away, the A1 Sportback won't be present at the event but visitors will still be able to find out all they need to know about the eagerly-awaited car and pre-order. Members of Halesowen Audi's sales team will be on hand to discuss its impressive specification in detail and talk through the array of affordable finance packages that will be available on the model, which adds a five-door option to the range.

With seating for five, the A1 Sportback is 6mm taller and 6mm wider than its sister version and offers slightly more head and shoulder room. It will be launched at a starting price of £13,980 - a modest £560 premium over the three-door - and will offer four engine choices, including the 1.6 TDI diesel that champions efficiency by offering 74.3mpg and 99g/km CO2.

The A1 Sportback can be specified in SE, Sport and S line levels of trim, all of which feature alloy wheels, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows and mirrors, split folding rear seat and a six-speaker single CD Concert audio system linked to a 6.5-inch retractable display.



"The A1 has been a phenomenal success, attracting a real mix of drivers and I'm sure our £750 deposit contribution offer will increase its appeal," explained Ian Fotheringham, Halesowen Audi's Sales Manager. "The imminent arrival of the A1 Sportback has been generating massive interest amongst customers requiring a compact family car, who can pre-order now to ensure delivery when the model is officially launched."

To find out more about
Halesowen Audi's A1 Weekend
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Solutions Representative example from Audi Finance based on 10,000 miles per annum[†] for Audi A1 1.4 TFSI Sport 122PS Manual. 5 years or 50,000 miles Free Servicing available for A1 3 Door[‡]:

Duration	2 years	Total amount payable	£17,327.36
23 monthly payments of	£199.00	Total amount payable by customer	£16,577.36
Customer deposit	£2,613.26	Acceptance fee*	£125.00
Centre deposit contribution	£750.00	Option to purchase fee**	£60.00
Recommended on-the-road price	£15,670.00	Rate of interest	7%
Amount of credit	£12,306.74	Representative APR	7.9% APR
Optional final payment	£9,327.10		

Halesowen Audi

Manor Lane, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 8RD Tel: 0121 504 0000 www.halesowen.audi.co.uk

Fuel economy figures for the Audi A1 Range: Urban 37.7 - 64.2mpg (7.5 - 4.4 l/100km) Extra Urban 55.4 - 83.1 mpg (5.1 - 3.4 l/100km) Combined 47.9 - 74.3mpg (5.9 - 3.8 l/100km) CO₂ emissions 139 - 99 g/km.

Retail sales only. *Payable within first payment. **Payable with optional final payment. *5.76p per mile excess mileage charges apply. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available to over 18s from participating Audi Centres only (subject to availability) for vehicles ordered before 31st March 2012 and delivered by 30th June 2012. The quoted ROTR prices and finance examples shown reflect the current rate of 20% VAT. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time. *Servicing activity is based on the manufacturers recommended Longlife service schedule. Up to 5 years or 50,000 miles whichever comes soonest. Free Audi Service Plan is available for the A1 3 door to all retail customers and is not dependant on the customer taking out Audi Finance. Terms, conditions and exclusions apply. For more information visit Audi.co.uk or speak to your Audi Centre. Audi Finance, Freepost Audi Finance.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6)-67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3)-91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7)-80.7 (3.5). CO₂ emissions: 324-94g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRI 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations between 01.01.12 and 31.01.12. ^Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper. 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. Price points are available on retailer stock vehicles only. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution.

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LOST—Gent's gold wedding ring, at Bentley Bridge Swimming Pool, Stourbridge, January 8, between 1-2pm. 07956 652578.

LOST—Kitten, tortoiseshell, 4 months old from Kingsway area, Wolverhampton. Contact 07702 523500.

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COLLINS

Charles Collins is looking for relatives of Joseph Stirchus Collins and his son Joseph Richard Collins (both deceased), last known living in the Stourbridge/Brierley Hill area.

Anyone with any information please contact:

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bought October 20, 1948 and May 15, 1949 respectively, last known address Cottage Homes, Wednesfield.

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CITROEN C2 VTR 1.6 53 plate, Silver, tax April 09, Dec, FSH, min credit £1,790. 07989 455460, Brierley Hill.

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HONDA HRV 1.6 2002, 84k miles, silver, electric windows, Tax. £1,000. 07948 374505.

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ROVER 75 Connisseur, 04, 2lt, BMW auto, engine 2.0, 25k miles, black, grey, very economical, serviced, £1,500. 07926 312860.

TOYOTA CELICA W reg, 107,000 miles, black, well looked after car, 6 months MoT and Tax. Tipiton area. £1,700. 07948 374505.

TOYOTA COROLLA, 5dr, 1600VVTi, auto, hatch, 2005, 29k, silver, tax/Mot, one owner, £4,250. 01384 833582.

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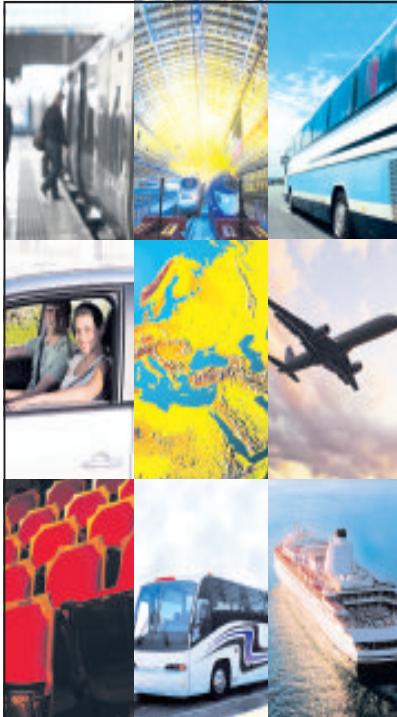
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SPORT**Hawks in hunt for under-10 girl teams**

HALAS Hawks Junior Girls FC are on the lookout for new players.

Coaching sessions are planned soon for girls in primary school years three and four in preparation for forming U10s teams to play in the Stourbridge and District Girls League.

The sessions will be held at Windsor High School, Halesowen, from 10am to 11am on Sundays, led by female coaches.

Halas Hawks currently have seven girls' teams and one open age ladies team.

The club is also looking for boys and girls in year one to join the U6 programme. Contact club secretary, Bob Hickman on 01384 637912 for further details.

Boys League
Halas Hawks 5
Forest Falcons 0

Halas Hawks U14s effectively sealed this win with three first-half goals from Liam Holmes, Jack Guest and Jack Bagley.

The second half saw Halas increase the lead with goals from Josh Mason and Adam Higgins.

Halas Hawks 2
Dudley Sports 1

The U16s had a well earned win against strong opposition. They were a goal down at half-time, but a determined second-half performance saw Joe Prosser score from the spot, before putting Lee Mills through for the winner three minutes from time.

Halas Hawks 1**Newfield Harriers 1**

Halas U17 took the lead through Kieran Hillsdon, but immediately let Newfield equalise through a defensive error. Missed chances for both sides saw the game finish as a draw.

Greenwood signs for the Heathens

DUDLEY Heathens have completed their 2012 speedway line-up with the signing of Dan Greenwood.

The rider quit the sport for personal reasons in 2007 but returned last September to take part in some meetings for Newport.

Greenwood, who will ride at reserve, makes his debut on April 3 at Monmore when the Heathens tackle Stoke.

Matches off

FROZEN pitches meant that all Old Halesians hockey club games were postponed on Saturday.

Ball moves step closer to crack at title

by Craig Birch

pion set to be crowned later this month.

Erick Ochieng and Nick Quigley will go toe-to-toe for the vacant title next week, with the victor to meet the Ball v Al Harbi.

That's what the British Boxing Board of Control has decided and Ball, the reigning Midlands champion, believes it's his only way in.

He said: "It will be tough, he's an undefeated fighter like me and we have come across a lot of the same competition so far.

"At this stage, I have got to progress and I will, once I have got this on my slate, so I have got to take this fight."

"I have no other options, this is my only foot on the title ladder. I have got to play with the cards I have been dealt."

It's been a rollercoaster month for Ball after he was lined up for a shock crack at new British champion Brian Rose.

Rose and promoter Frank Maloney agreed to a voluntary defence - but the board and Sky Sports vetoed the proposed bout. Ball had already turned down a proposed English title fight with Birmingham's

Max Maxwell to hold out for Rose. Maxwell has now been picked to face Rose, who he knocked out last year, and Ball knows which one he would rather face.

He said: "In my eyes, Max would have been a harder fight than Rose, he's someone who has never got to where he should have."

"He knocked Rose out, yet Rose comes back to win the English and British titles, that's the madness of boxing."

"My fight with Max fell apart because the board ordered me to have an eliminator," said Ball. "I am just not getting the opportunities," he added.

Truman's chance to take on champ

ASTON'S Chris Truman has been handed a shot at Midlands light welterweight champion Dave Ryan at the end of March.

The two will collide at the top of the bill for the area title at Meadowside Leisure Centre, Burton, on March 31.

It's a first title shot for "the Trumanator" after 10 pro outings and represents a permanent shift up a weight class to light welter.

Ryan is the favourite but Truman could be underestimated, due to a 5ft 5in stature which the 27-year-old insists belies his strength.

A display of punching power led to his first stoppage win last September, three months after he lost his undefeated record in one round against Lee Jennings.

Truman has since taken a draw from fellow area title challenger Jon Baguley and warns he shouldn't be taken lightly.

He said: "I know I am capable of winning that title, I believe in myself."

"To win the Midlands title would be the highlight of my career, so far."

Favourite

"He's the champion and the favourite and, on the night, I will prove I am at that level."

"If he comes to fight, I will look to box, I am not looking for a war. I want to get my jab working and use my range, if I can do that the power will come with it."

"I know I can punch, my coaches are always telling me how hard I hit."

Giuseppe Dapratto can testify that Truman has a puncher's chance, after he was blown out in five rounds at the Tower Ballrooms, Birmingham.

That went some way to easing the pain of that collapse to Jennings, but Truman insists lessons have been learned.

Baguley would have been the biggest scalp of all - and Truman insists he won the fight.

He said: "Light welter is my natural weight, I feel strong. I have never, ever felt good boxing at anything else."

"I have had two fights since my defeat, so that's in the past now, but it's definitely done me good."

"It's made me use my brain a bit more, instead of just throwing shots. I feel better, stronger and I look bigger now, everyone says so."

Day of promise ends with another familiar outcome**THE HAWTHORNS** is hardly proving to be home sweet home for Albion. A seventh home Premier League defeat this season shows the Baggies have yet to eliminate their self-destructive tendencies.

Recent years have proven their ability to raise fans' expectations is exceeded only by their capacity to shoot themselves in the foot, writes Steve Madeley.

And so it proved again on Saturday as they allowed another fabulous opportunity to slay their Hawthorns demons to slip through their grasp.

Albion 1 Norwich City 2

contrived to reach half-time 1-0 behind despite a dominant 45-minute display in the opening half.

An early shot from distance by Peter Odemwingie was misjudged by a diving Ruddy, who saw his half-save rebound onto the crossbar.

A fine move midway through the half ended with FA Cup hat-trick hero Simon Cox denied superbly by a sprawling Ruddy.

And a sweet volley from outside the penalty area from James Morrison was blocked on the line by Surman.

Only a messy mix-up between Ben Foster and Gareth McAuley offered any encouragement for the Canaries, who saw the Baggies keeper's clearance hit Steve Morison and trickle against the woodwork.

Yet two minutes before the break a poor touch by Cox saw an Albion attack break down in the Norwich box and the visitors broke through Simeon Jackson with Wes Hoolahan's eventual cross volleyed home by Surman.

Shane Long's return from injury as a second-half Albion substitute looked set to add the finishing touch to their pleasing build-up play. First the Irishman drew another brave save from Ruddy, then he dispatched a cool penalty after Jerome Thomas's dart at goal was blocked by a Daniel Ayala lunge that, on another day, might have earned the Spaniard a red card.

At 1-1 the Baggies looked the likeliest winners, yet again they surrendered the initiative as a heavy touch from Youssouf Mulumbu marked the end of a promising attacking move and the Canaries broke for their winner. Grant Holt's ability to race down the Baggies left will have worried Hodgson, as will the freedom Morison had to head home his cross at the far post.

Another day of promise had a depressingly familiar outcome.



Shane Long slots home from the penalty spot, but it was not enough for Albion

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SPORT

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Humbling for Cradley as defence leaks five

CRADLEY suffered a 5-2 defeat away to makeshift Wednesfield in the West Midlands Premier League.

The hosts were unlucky when Danny Forward had a header cleared off the line but a few minutes later Anton Johns controlled a Thomas Horton free-kick off his chest before volleying the ball into the net from eight yards.

Cradley hit back to equalise in the 39th minute when Michael Woolman headed a Sam Wilkinson cross over Sam Arnold.

Wednesfield regained the lead just before half-time when Bekir Halil lofted the ball into the empty net after Matt Jones had dashed to the edge of the area to clear.

The hosts extended their lead at the start of the second half as Tyrone Clarke steered a Lee Butler corner past Jones.

Cradley enjoyed a good spell as Wilkinson hit a post from 25 yards and then pulled one back in the 79th minute with Edward Flory netting from close range.

A minute later Wednesfield regained their two-goal advantage with Halil scoring from the spot after Johns was fouled by Luke Guy.

Wednesfield's Sullivan added a fifth when he beat the offside trap to round Jones and roll the ball into an empty net.

Relegation strugglers fight it out

A BATTLE royal looms as West Bromwich Harriers fight to beat the drop from Division Two of the Birmingham and District Cross-Country League.

The final fixture at Wolverhampton in four weeks' time will see Sparkhill Harriers and West Bromwich Harriers battle it out to dodge relegation.

Sparkhill have the advantage, but just 11 points separate the teams with Sparkhill on 1,861 points, West Bromwich on 1,850.

The third race, held at Wyken Croft, Coventry, yielded 596 points for West Bromwich who were without some of their stars.

Leading the club home was J Jeffries in 35th position with a time of 33 min 47sec over the six miles, backed by G Doh (50th), G Whitehouse (84th), S Pitt (120th), Mal Carr (131st) and Paul Jakeways (176th).

Home truths

Day of promise ends badly for the Baggies

Page 35



Truman show

Title chance for light-welterweight

Page 35

e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Club makes waves to beat rivals

HALESOWEN Swimming Club romped to victory in the Redditch junior friendly gala in Droitwich, finishing 53 points clear of second-placed Redditch in the five-club event.

Swimmers who won both their individual events were Katy Morrice, Ben Meakin and Mark Laing in the freestyle and butterfly, Kitty Luscombe in the breaststroke and backstroke and Imogen Vaughan-Hawkins in the freestyle and backstroke.

Other individual event winners were Jack Simpson, Euan Vaughan-Hawkins and Daniel Smylie in the backstroke, James Cuthbert in the butterfly and India Hanke

Swimming

in the freestyle. The relay teams were exceptional, winning nearly all events. They featured Amber Robbins, Nicol Green, Amber Harrison, George Edwards and Owen Crump for the 10-year-olds; Indu Appanna, Emma Bird, Kate Martin, Jakob Baker and George Westwood for the 11-year-olds and Jamie Greenwood for the 12-year-old boys relay team.

Sophie Parsons, Ruby Hanke, Melissa Parsons, James Gaskin, Aaron Spoor and Jacob Reeves won the nine-year-old freestyle relay, while Molly Kelly and

Lauren Hill helped Halesowen win all three of the cannon relays.

Results: Halesowen 268, Redditch 215, Stourbridge 195, Worcester 190 and Evesham 112.

More than 200 members, family and friends of the club attended their presentation evening at Benjamins in Halesowen.

Some 50 swimmers were awarded trophies and certificates with particular mention to Ben Meakin who broke 13 records and collected the best performance trophy along the way.

Chief coach Pete Carey, who is celebrating 10 years at the club, awarded trophies to best newcomer India Hanke and swimmer

of the year Jacob Darby. Club captains were also appointed with junior captains for 2012 being Lauren Hill and Mark Laing, senior captain Chloe Robbins and senior vice-captain Josh Bradley.

The presentation followed a year of club success. Swimmers took a senior, junior and two age group titles in the county championships, while senior swimmers retained the Worcester Winter League title.

The club won the county relay championships, the juniors competed in the first division final for the third year running and the season was rounded off by winning the Mercian Summer League for the first time.

Agony for Tipton as strikers thwarted

TIPTON were made to pay for missed opportunities as they were beaten 1-0 at Midland Alliance leaders Coventry Sphinx.

The visitors showed their intent early on, putting Sphinx keeper Carl O'Neill under pressure from set-pieces.

In the 13th minute James Cooper fired wide for Tipton and they threatened again soon after when Mitch Plows centred, but David Bate was off target.

On-loan Rushall striker Craig Bannister then crossed for Max Black but his glancing header drifted wide.

Sphinx went in front against the run of play when Edwards bundled the ball home from a corner.

Tipton responded well and it seemed their good work would be rewarded when excellent play from Plows and Bannister put Cooper in, but his volley from two yards went wide.

The second half started as the first half finished with Cooper missing an even easier chance.

Tipton were by far the better team and all that was missing was an end product to their good play.

Bannister mis-timed a hook shot in the 66th minute with the goal at his mercy.

Ace Thomas helps GB to the Olympics

GYMNAST Kristian Thomas helped Great Britain seize their final chance to qualify a full men's artistic gymnastics team for the Olympic Games.

Thomas, a member of Earls Gymnastics Club in Halesowen, was second in the individual standings as Britain secured a full berth of five gymnasts for the first time since 1992. Daniel Purvis finished top and Daniel Keatings third.

The team, also featuring Louis Smith, Max Whitlock and Ruslan Panteleimonov finished first with a total of 358.227 ahead of France on 350.659, Spain with 347.292 and Italy on 346.334, as Canada, Brazil, Puerto Rico and Belarus missed out.

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CARDS ARE COSTLY, WARNS BROOKES

HALESOWEN chairman Colin Brookes today admitted the Yeltz's indisipline is now costing them precious points.

Mike McGrath's dismissal in Saturday's 4-2 defeat at North Leigh was the Yeltz's eighth red card of the season.

Halesowen were drawing 2-2 at the time before two late goals left them 15th in the Southern League Division One South and West.

Brookes said: "We can't hide the facts now, last Saturday was our eighth sending-off in 29 games. We were drawing 2-2 at the time and McGrath was sent off for violent conduct."

"I feel for Shaun (Cunnington, manager) because he's working so hard to turn it around.

"The cards must have cost us 12 to 14 points – put that on our total and it's not a bad one."

"We've had something like 54 bookings in 29 games so it's only about two a game but something is happening and they are getting themselves sent off," he added.

"It's something you can't legislate for."

McGrath's dismissal at North Leigh ensured that Halesowen ended with 10 men for the third consecutive game. Striker Ben Haseley netted on his club debut and Nathan Jackson was also on the scoresheet.

But Morgan Williams and John Mills scored a brace apiece for the hosts on Halesowen's first visit to the Oxfordshire club.

Former Heath Hayes striker Haseley marked an impressive debut by giving the Yeltz a 10th-minute lead after holding off defender Andy Caton before clipping over keeper Sam Warrell.

A neat flick from Nathan Jones almost put Haseley free again after half an hour.

But North Leigh equalised in the 31st minute

when Williams steered a deep left-wing cross from Michael Hopkins into the top corner of the net.

Visiting captain Brendan Kelly did well to head clear Hopkins' dangerous cross for a 35th-minute corner and stand-in keeper Louis Connor tipped Tom Franklin's header over from a Toby Clarke cross.

The Yeltz regained the lead after 40 minutes when Jackson spotted Warrell off his line and unleashed a 30-yard shot which the stranded keeper could only help into the net.

Mills equalised in the 73rd minute after being put clear. The home side finished strongly after McGrath was sent off with a straight red in the 76th minute.

McGrath went to ground in the penalty area and then squared up to central defender Franklin in a head-to-head confrontation.

North Leigh went ahead for the first time in the 84th-minute when a shot from Elliott Osbourne-Ricketts rebounded for Williams to fire home his second. Deep in injury time, Mills tapped home his second.

POOL players from Brierley Hill are just champion after proving themselves the best in the country.

The team from Brierley Hill Snooker & Pool, formerly PJ's Pool Hall Stourbridge, were crowned the national Champion of Champions.

Ninety-six sides competed in the two-day finals, with Brierley Hill victorious after defeating Dragon Boyz 8-5 in the final.

Captain Paul Dunkey said: "This is definitely one of the hardest events any team or player can aspire to win."

Only teams who are their local league champions can enter the tournament.

All teams consist of seven players and every match is the best of 14 frames, with each player in the side playing twice.



The winning team from Brierley Hill Snooker & Pool celebrate their Champion of Champions success, from left, Ian Priest, Hilton Patel, Paul Shakespeare, Neil Raybone, Paul Dunkey, Pat Ward and Steve Sears

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